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Morning readings

MORNING READINGS

A BOOK OF DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

COMPILED BY
FRANK M. RICH

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning,
O Lord; in the morning will I direct my
prayer unto thee, and will look up."

BOSTON
RICHARD G. BADGER
THE GORHAM PRESS

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TO MY MOTHER,

ELLEN THORP RICH,

WITH GRATEFUL APPRECIATION, THIS
BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED

BLESS our children, O God, and help us so to fashion their souls, by precept and by example, that they shall ever love the good, flee from sin, revere Thy word, and honor Thy name. May they, planted in the house of the Lord, flourish in the courts of our God; may they guard for future ages the truths revealed to their forefathers.—Amen.

Jewish Liturgy

PREFACE

MORNING READINGS is a book of devotional exercises for collective worship. The material was first prepared for use in my own school with a view to making the usual five minute opening service of the morning a period of as much real interest and value to the students as possible. My aim was to furnish a year's course of carefully selected Scripture readings—comprising those passages of highest ethical and literary value that are universally approved and admired—and, with the readings, a collection of prayers from famous sources, harmonizing with the Bible selections they accompany, and suitable for a gathering where all denominations are represented.

Naturally, the time and work necessary in making such a collection is considerable, far more than the average teacher can afford. The stock of available material for such a course is scanty, and, so far as we know, nothing that attempts to cover the same ground has ever been put into published form. The hope that this collection may prove useful in a wider field, saving the time of the conductor, avoiding monotonous repetition, and helping to bring to many the beauty and inspiration of a noble field of literature has led to its publication.

It seems almost too much to expect that all fear of school interference in the religious training of youth can be put at rest; but, so far as possible, everything that

would be at variance with the tenets of any denomination, Jewish, Catholic or Protestant, has been omitted, and only that included which all could agree was true, beautiful and uplifting.

The readings are intended primarily for the more mature students of upper grammar and high school age, and yet selected passages can be made suitable for younger students by being shortened. The usual endings of Christian prayers, wherever they occur, have been omitted for obvious reasons, and their insertion left to the option of the reader. Prayers in the singular person have been made plural. Wherever brevity, unity, or continuity of thought have made it advisable, portions of both prayers and readings have been omitted. In the Bible passages, the King James' version is given preference wherever its wording seems as good as that of the others, but generally the American revised version has been used as preferable from the standpoint of clearness and euphony.

Thanks are due to many publishers and authors for the use of copyrighted material, to the compilers of other collections of prayers, especially to Mrs. Mary W. Tileson for her "Prayers—Ancient and Modern," and to many friends who have contributed valuable time, suggestions and encouragement. Thanks are also due the following:

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If the work, in spite of its faults of omission and commission, becomes the means of lightening the labors of others a little, of acquainting students and the family circle with some of the beauties of an important, but neglected, field of literature, or of inspiring some one else to compile a better collection, its purpose will have been accomplished.

Frank M. Rich

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I

Selections For Special Occasions

Morning Readings

For the First Day of School

(Scripture Reading No. 136)

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast brought us to the beginning of another year, grant us so to remember Thy gifts, and so to acknowledge Thy goodness, as that every year and day which Thou shalt yet grant us, may be employed in the amendment of our lives, and in the diligent discharge of such duties as Thy Providence shall allot us. Grant us, by Thy Grace, to know and to do what Thou requirest. Give us good desires, and remove those impediments which may hinder them from effect. Forgive us our sins, negligences, and ignorances, and when at last Thou shalt call us to another life, receive us to everlasting happiness. Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

For Thanksgiving Day

Harvest Hymn

ONCE more the liberal year laughs out
O'er richer stores than gems of gold;
Once more with harvest song and shout
Is nature's boldest triumph told.

Our common mother rests and sings
Like Ruth among her garnered sheaves;
Her lap is full of goodly things,
Her brow is bright with autumn leaves.

Oh, favors old, yet ever new;
Oh blessings with the sunshine sent!
The bounty overruns our due,
The fullness shames our discontent.

We shut our eyes, the bowers bloom on;
We murmur, but the corn ears fill;
We choose the shadow, but the sun
That casts it shines behind us still,

And gives us, with our rugged soil,
The power to make it Eden fair,
And richer fruits to crown our toil,
Than summer-wedded islands bear.

Who murmurs at his lot to-day?
Who scorns his native fruit and bloom,
Or sighs for dainties far away,
Besides the bounteous board of home?

Thank heaven, instead, that freedom's arm
Can change a rocky soil to gold;
That brave and generous lives can warm
A clime with northern ices cold.

And by these altars wreathed with flowers,
And fields with fruits awake again

Thanksgiving for the golden hours,
The earlier and the latter rain.

John G. Whittier

(Scripture Reading No. 104)

Most gracious God, who hast been infinitely merciful to us, not only in the year past, but through all the years of our life, be pleased to accept our most unfeigned thanks for Thine innumerable blessings to us; graciously pardoning the manifold sins and infirmities of our life past, and bountifully bestowing upon us all those graces and virtues, which may render us acceptable to Thee. And, every year which Thou shalt be pleased to add to our lives, add also, we humbly implore Thee, more strength to our faith, more ardor to our love, and a greater perfection to our obedience; and grant that, in a humble sincerity and constant perseverance, we may serve Thee most faithfully the remainder of our lives.—Amen.

Charles How (1661-1745)

For Christmas Day

Keeping Christmas

IT is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons when men stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the com-

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mon life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will

fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open —are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

Henry Van Dyke

The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good-will. Help us rightly to remember the Birth of Jesus, that we may share the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wise men.

Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with a clean heart. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Close the doors of hate, and open the doors of love, all over the world.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven.—Amen.

Henry Van Dyke

For the New Year

Ring Out, Wild Bells!

RING out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor;
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out the slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;

Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Tennyson.

(Scripture Reading No. 95)

O God, the unfailing source of light and mercy, who hast brought us to the beginning of this year, and art sparing us to love thee and to keep thy commandments; give us, we beseech thee, a solemn sense of the importance of time, and of diligence in improving the talents thou hast placed in our hands; and enable us so faithfully to discharge o r duty in this life, that when we shall appear before thee at thy great tribunal, we may be found worthy of that eternal kingdom which thou hast promised.—Amen.

King's Chapel Liturgy (1785)

For Lincoln's Birthday

To the Memory of Abraham Lincoln

O SLOW to smite and swift to spare,
, Gentle and merciful and just!
Who, in the fear of God, didst bear
The sword of power—a nation's trust.

In sorrow by thy bier we stand,
Amid the awe that hushes all,
And speak the anguish of a land
That shook with horror at thy fall.

Thy task is done—the bond are free;
We bear thee to an honored grave,
Whose noblest monument shall be
The broken fetters of the slave.

Pure was thy life; its bloody close
Hath placed thee with the sons of light,
Among the noble host of those
Who perished in the cause of right.

William Cullen Bryant (1865)

(Scripture Reading No. 90)

Almighty Father, we thank Thee today for the gracious memory of Thy servant who lived and died for the sake of a free and united nation. We thank Thee more that we have his life inwrought into the very fabric of the life of the nation. We had in him "a hiding place from the

wind and a covert from the tempest, a river of water in a dry place and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." We gratefully join in praise with the thousands who found help and cheer in the shadow of his strength. And now we humbly beseech Thee, help us in some small way this day to be a helper to the helpless, a friend to the needy, sunshine to those whose day will be gray and gloomy, the shadow of a great rock to those who are buffeted by the world's storms. Thus shall we prove our gratitude to Thee for the gift of Thy servant whom we honor today, and thus shall we honor Thee.—Amen.

Avery A. Shaw

For Washington's Birthday

Washington's Birthday

WELCOME to the day returning,
Dearer as the ages flow,
While the torch of Faith is burning,
Long as Freedom's altars glow!
See the hero whom it gave us
Slumbering on a mother's breast;
For the arm he stretched to save us
Be its morn forever blest!

Vain is empire's mad temptation!
Not for him an earthly crown!
He whose sword has freed a nation
Strikes the offered sceptre down.

See the throneless conqueror seated,
  Ruler by a people's choice;
See the patriot's task completed;
  Hear the Father's dying voice:

"By the name that you inherit,
  By the sufferings you recall,
Cherish the fraternal spirit;
  Love your country first of all!
Listen not to idle questions
  If its bands may be untied;
Doubt the patriot whose suggestions
  Strive a nation to divide."

Father! we, whose ears have tingled
  With the discord notes of shame;
We, whose sires their blood have mingled
  In the battle's thunder-flame,—
Gathering, while this holy morning
  Lights the land from sea to sea,
Hear thy counsel, heed thy warning;
  Trust us while we honor thee.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

(Scripture Reading No. 78)

Father of life, we thank Thee that Thou hast been with the Fathers, that Thou hast been with him whose birth this day we celebrate. Thou wert willing to speak to them and they were willing to hear Thee and to answer Thee, "Lo, here am I, send me."

We thank Thee that the memory of these men has

come down to us; of him who was first in peace, first in war and first in the hearts of his countrymen; and we ask Thee that Thou wilt be with our countrymen today, and with us who are here; that Thou wilt teach us Thy law, that we may walk in Thy ways; that this may be that happy nation whose God is the Lord.—Amen.

Edward Everett Hale

For the Last Day of School

(Scripture Reading No. 186)

Today we go forth separate, some of us to pleasure, some of us to worship, some upon duty. Go with us, our guide and angel; hold Thou before us in our divided paths the mark of our low calling, still to be true to what small best we can attain to. Help us in that, our maker, the dispenser of events—Thou, of the vast designs, in which we blindly labor, suffer us to be so far constant to ourselves and our beloved.—Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

II

Narratives

1

The Story of the Creation

IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

And God said, Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, *and* fruit-trees bearing fruit after their kind, wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after their kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars

also. And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth.

And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created the great sea-monsters, and every living creature that moveth, wherewith the waters swarmed, after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind, cattle, and creeping things, and beasts of the earth after their kind: and it was so.

And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the ground after its kind: and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:1-3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14-17, 20-22, 24, 25

O Lord, Thou through Thine operations didst make manifest the everlasting fabric of the world. Thou, Lord, didst create the earth. Thou art faithful throughout all generations, righteous in all thy judgments, marvellous in strength and excellence. Thou that art wise in creating and prudent in establishing that which thou hast made, that art good in the things which are seen, and faithful with them that trust on thee, pitiful and compassionate, forgive us our iniquities and our unrighteousness, and our transgressions and shortcomings. Lay not to our account every sin of thy servants and of

thy handmaids, but cleanse us with the cleansing of thy truth, and guide our steps to walk in holiness, and righteousness and singleness of heart, and to do such things as are good and well pleasing in thy sight. Yea, Lord, make thy face to shine upon us in peace for our good, that we may be sheltered by thy right hand, and delivered from every sin by thine uplifted arm.—Amen.

From the First Epistle of St. Clement of Rome—Chap. 60—*First Century, A. D.*

2

The Creation of Man

AND God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food: and to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life,

I have given every green herb for food: and it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26-31

Father, we thank Thee for this human world which Thou hast created. We bless Thee for the glorious nature which Thou hast given us, above the material things and above the beasts which feed thereon, which Thou hast made also subservient unto us. We thank Thee for the vast talents, so various and so fair, which Thou hast lodged in these earthen vessels of our bodies. We bless Thee for our vast capacity for improvement in every noblest thing, and that Thou hast so made the world, that while we seek the daily bread for our body which perishes in the using, we gain also by Thy sweet providence that bread of life which groweth not old, and strengthens our soul forever and ever.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

3

The Creation of Woman

AND the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; because that in it he rested from all his work which God had created and made.

And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And Jehovah God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made Jehovah God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

And Jehovah God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof: and the rib, which Jehovah God had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And the man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:1-3, 7-9, 16-8, 21-24

Infinite and Holy One, whom we know as our Father, we devoutly thank Thee for the mercy that created us from the dust, and for the greater mercy that has created us anew by a heavenly adoption as Thy children.

For the undying yearnings, which Thou hast implanted in us, after things unseen,—for their satisfaction in Thyself, we thank Thee; and we rejoice that Thou hast been willing to encourage our frail and mortal spirits, by revealing to us something of the perfections of Thy nature, and calling us to follow after Thee. Grant, we pray, that Thy loving-kindness may be followed by our obedience. And do Thou so confirm our best purposes by renewing our sense of Thy presence, that we may both imitate Thy nature, and accept Thy dealings with us in the spirit of childlike trust.—Amen.

Henry W. Foote (1838-1889)

4

The Story of the First Sin

NOW the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the

fruit thereof, and did eat: and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

And they heard the voice of Jehovah God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God amongst the trees of the garden.

And Jehovah God called unto the man, and said unto him, Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3:1-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17-19

O God, in whose sight to sin is to die, but in whose knowledge is life, and Thy service perfect freedom, grant that as by necessity of nature we have borne the likeness of things earthly, so by inward transformation of Thy Spirit we may attain to things heavenly, and dwell in Thy likeness forever.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

5

The Story of the First Murder

AND in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Jehovah. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Jehovah had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And Jehovah said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shall it not be lifted up? and if thou doest not well, sin coucheth at the door; and unto thee shall be its desire; but do thou rule over it. And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And Jehovah said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now cursed art thou from the ground, which hath opened its mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; when thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee its strength; a fugitive and a wanderer shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto Jehovah, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the ground; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth; and it will come to

pass, that whosoever findeth me will slay me. And Jehovah said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And Jehovah appointed a sign for Cain, lest any finding him should smite him.

Genesis 4:3-15

Father of men, who regardest Thy children with compassion! behold this earth, which Thou hast given to our care, hath many griefs, and is sad with a weight of many sins, Keep us pure from the evil, and make us strong to contend against it. Let us not shut our hearts against pity, O Thou All-merciful! but seek to heal the wounds with which our fellowmen lie stricken on the way. May we make no peace with oppression; but, amid the negligence of the world and the seductions of guilty customs, put into us the spirit of the holy prophets and martyrs of old. Yet, O Lord, may it be that we sin not in our anger. Lift up within us a meek aspiring mind, that we may never say to our brother—"I am holier than thou," but only ask of Thee—"God, be merciful to me a sinner!" So may we labor and watch and pray for the coming of Thy kingdom.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

6

Jacob's Dream

AND Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he

took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed; and, behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and, behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, Jehovah stood above it, and said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely Jehovah is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Genesis 28:10-17

When we are awake, we are still with Thee, O God most merciful, and Thy hand is over us for good. Be Thou the Desire of our hearts, and the Ruler of our thoughts. O heavenly Father, we need Thy love and Thy calm breath shed abroad in our souls to be a fountain of strength; we know not without Thee what may befall us this day, either of peril, or of temptation, or of sorrow. But Thou canst put a guard about our path, and canst fence all our senses from temptation by sober-

ing them with Thy holy fear. Give us, then, we pray Thee, a right sense of duty, to shield us in all conflict, and guard us against sin and death. Lead us not into temptation; or, when we are tempted, deliver us by humble watchfulness from all power of evil.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

7

Joseph and His Brethren

NOW Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors. And his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren; and they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Israel said unto Joseph, Go now, see whether it is well with thy brethren, and well with the flock; and bring me word again. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

And they saw him afar off, and before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into one of the pits, and we will say, An evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. And Reuben heard it, and delivered him out of their hand, and said, Let us not take his life. Shed no

blood; cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but lay no hand upon him: that he might deliver him out of their hand, to restore him to his father.

Genesis 37:3-5, 12, 14, 17-22

O Almighty God, Father and Lord of all the creatures, who hast disposed all things and all chances so as may best magnify Thy mercy, bringing good out of evil; we most humbly beseech Thee to give us wisdom from above, that we may adore Thee and admire Thy ways and footsteps, which are in the great deep and not to be searched out; teach us to submit to Thy Providence in all things, to be content in all changes of person and condition, to be temperate in prosperity, and to read our duty in the lines of Thy mercy; and in adversity to be meek, patient, and resigned; and to look through the cloud, that we may wait for the consolation of the Lord.—Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

8

Sold into Egypt

AND it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph of his coat, the coat of many colors that was on him; and they took him, and cast him into the pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bear-

ing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother, our flesh. And his brethren hearkened unto him. And there passed by Midianites, merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they brought Joseph into Egypt.

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a he-goat, and dipped the coat in the blood; and they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father, and said, This have we found: know now whether it is thy son's coat or not. And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn in pieces. And Jacob rent his garments, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down to Sheol to my son mourning. And his father wept for him.

And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, *and* captain of the guard.

Genesis 37:23-28, 31-35, 36

O God, Thou only Refuge of Thy children! who remainest true though all else should fail, and livest though all things die. . . . Cover us now when we fly to Thee. Rebuke within us all immoderate desires, all unquiet temper, all presumptuous expectations, all ignoble self-in-

dulgence: and feeling on us the embrace of Thy Fatherly hand, may we meekly and with courage go into the darkest ways of our pilgrimage; anxious not to change Thy perfect will, but only to do and bear it worthily. . . . May we spend all our days as in Thy presence, and meet our death in the strength of Thy promise, and pass hence into the nearer light of Thy knowledge and Thy love.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

9

Pharaoh's Dream

AND it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river. And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, well-favored and fat-fleshed; and they fed in the reed-grass. And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill-favored and lean-fleshed, and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. And the ill-favored and lean-fleshed kine did eat up the seven well-favored and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. And he slept and dreamed a second time: and, behold, seven ears of grain came up upon one stalk, rank and good. And, behold, seven ears, thin and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. And the thin ears swallowed up the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise

men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, me and the chief baker: and we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. And there was with us there a young man, a Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that when thou hearest a dream thou canst interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Genesis 41:1-16

We need Thee to teach us day by day, according to each day's opportunities and needs. Give us, O our Lord, that purity of conscience which alone can receive, which alone can improve Thy inspirations. Our ears are dull, so that we cannot hear Thy voice. Our eyes are dim, so that we cannot see Thy tokens. Thou alone

canst quicken our hearing, and purge our sight, and cleanse and renew our heart. Teach us to sit at Thy feet, and to hear Thy word.—Amen.

Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

10

The Interpretation

AND Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the brink of the river: and, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well-favored; and they fed in the reed-grass: and, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill-favored and lean-fleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness: and the lean and ill-favored kine did eat up the first seven fat kine: and when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill-favored, as at the beginning. So I awoke. And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up upon one stalk, full and good: and, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, *and* blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them: and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears: and I told it unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: what God is about to do he hath declared unto Pharaoh. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And

the seven lean and ill-favored kine that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind; they shall be seven years of famine.

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh, it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do *this,* and let him appoint overseers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

And the food shall be for a store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom the spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou: thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Genesis 41:17-27, 32-34, 36-40

O Lord, perfect, we beseech Thee, the faith of us who believe, and sow the good seed of faith in their hearts who yet lack it; that we all may look steadfastly unto Thee, and run with patience the race that is set before us. Give us grace to show our faith by our works; teach us to

walk by faith, having respect unto the promises: which of Thy mercy make good to us in Thine own good time, O our most gracious Lord God.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

11

The Famine

AND Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. And Joseph laid up grain as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left off numbering; for it was without number. And the seven years of plenty, that was in the land of Egypt, came to an end. And the seven years of famine began to come, according as Joseph had said: and there was famine in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was sore in all the earth.

Genesis 41:46-49, 53, 54, 57

Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth, Giver of light and life, so teach us those things which belong to the heavenly kingdom, and those duties which are of the

earth, that we, stirred by the light and life of the peace of God, may be enabled faithfully to do the things committed to us, looking ever unto Thee for light and life, that, being lifted above ourselves, the life of God in the soul of man may be ours, and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, may then keep our hearts and minds.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

12

The Meeting in Egypt

NOW Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure harm befall him.

And Joseph was the governor over the land; he it was that sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves to him with their faces to the earth. And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly with them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.

And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies.

And they said, We thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not. And Joseph spake unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies: hereby ye shall be proved: by the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither. Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be bound, that your words may be proved, whether there be truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies. And he put them all together into ward three days.

Genesis 42:1-4, 6-11, 13-17

Father, we bless Thee for the discipline of our daily life, and pray that by our experience we may grow wiser and nobler-hearted, that prosperity may teach us to be generous towards all, to be charitable towards such as we ought to help; and when sadness and adversity come over us, may they still more soften our hearts, while they confirm and strengthen our will, and lift our souls upward to an aspiration for nobler and nobler virtues than we have hitherto attained.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

13

Joseph's Brethren Return

AND Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: if ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in your prison-house; but go ye, carry grain for the famine of your houses: and bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so. And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore also, behold, his blood is required. And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for there was an interpreter between them. And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and he returned to them, and spake to them, and took Simeon from among them, and bound him before their eyes. Then Joseph commanded to fill their vessels with grain, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus was it done unto them.

And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have you bereaved of my children: Joseph

is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.

Genesis 42:18-25, 35, 36

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, who, when troubled with the things that are past, lose faith, and life, and courage, and hope. So have mercy upon us, and uphold us, that we, being sustained by a true faith that Thou art merciful and forgiving, may go on in the life of the future to keep Thy commandments, to rejoice in Thy bounty, to trust in Thy mercy, and to hope in the eternal life. Grant unto all of us, whatsoever may betide us, to remember ever that it is all of Thy guidance, under Thy care, by Thy will; that so, in darkest days, beholding Thee we may have courage to go on, faith to endure, patience to bear, and hopefulness to hold out, even unto the end.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

14

The Second Journey to Egypt

AND the famine was sore in the land. And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food. And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food: but if thou wilt not send.

him, we will not go down; for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother? And they said, The man asked straightly concerning ourselves, and concerning our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye *another* brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we in any wise know that he would say, Bring your brother down? And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones. I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever: for except we had lingered, surely we had now returned a second time. And their father Israel said unto them, If it be so now, do this: take of the choice fruits of the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spicery and myrrh, nuts, and almonds; and take double money in your hand; and the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks carry again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight: take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man: and God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release unto you your other brother and Benjamin. And if I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved. And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

Genesis 43:1-15

O Thou, on whose goodness we lie down, like the flock upon the green pastures, and from whose purity we quench our thirst, as from the clear waters! many of Thy mercies do we plainly see, and we believe in a boundless store behind. No morning stars that sing together can have deeper call than we for grateful joy. Thou hast given us a life of high vocation, and Thine own breathing in our hearts interprets for us its sacred opportunities. Thou hast cheered the way with many dear affections and glimpses of solemn beauty and everlasting truth. Not a cloud of sorrow, but Thou hast touched with glory: not a dusty atmosphere of cares, but Thy light shines through! And, lest our spirits should fail before Thine unattainable perfections, Thou hast set us in the train of Thy saints who have learned to take up the cross of Thy sacrifice. . . . Let the time past suffice to have wrought our own will, and now make us consecrate to Thine.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

15

Joseph Reveals Himself

AND when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, Bring the men into the house, and slay, and make ready; for the men shall dine with me at noon. And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men to Joseph's house.

And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and

bowed down themselves to him to the earth. And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive? And they said, Thy servant our father is well, he is yet alive. And they bowed the head, and made obeisance. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw Benjamin his brother, his mother's son, and said, Is this your youngest brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son. And Joseph made haste; for his heart yearned over his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there. And he washed his face, and came out; and he refrained himself, and said, Set on bread. And they sat before him, the first-born according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one with another.

Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians heard, and the house of Pharaoh heard. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. And now be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and there are yet five years, in which there

shall be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a remnant in the earth, and to save you alive by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not; and thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast: and there will I nourish thee; for there are yet five years of famine; lest thou come to poverty, thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast.

And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen: and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither. And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

Genesis 43:16, 17, 26-31, 33; 45:1-11, 13-15

O Thou who art love, and dwellest in love! Teach us herein to be followers of Thee, as dear children. Never may we shut our hearts against the sorrows of even the unthankful and the evil. Make us organs of Thy tender mercy, to soothe the wretched, to lift the penitent, to seek and to save the lost; till all shall at length know themselves Thy children, and be one with each other and with Thee.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

16

Joseph's Father

SO he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way. And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father. And they told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt. And his heart fainted, for he believed them not. And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: and Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him: his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.

And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen; and he presented himself unto him, and fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, that thou art yet alive.

Genesis 45:24-28; 46:5-7, 29, 30

Give, we pray Thee, to all children grace reverently to love their parents, and lovingly to obey them. Teach us all that filial duty never ends or lessens: and bless all parents in their children, and all children in their parents. O Thou in whom the fatherless find mercy, make all orphans, we beseech Thee, loving and dutiful unto Thee, their true Father. Be Thy will their law, Thy house their home, Thy love their inheritance. And we earnestly pray Thee, comfort those who have lost their children, giving mothers grace to be comforted though they are not; and grant us all faith to yield our dearest treasures unto Thee with joy and thanksgiving, that where with Thee our treasure is, there our hearts may be also. Thus may we look for and hasten unto the day of union with Thee, and of reunion.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

17

Jacob's Last Days

AND Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How many are the days of the years of thy life? And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty years: few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. And Joseph placed his

father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen; and they gat them possessions therein, and were fruitful, and multiplied exceedingly.

And the time drew near that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph and said unto him, If now I have found favor in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me: bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt; but when I sleep with my fathers, thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying-place. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.

And when Jacob made an end of charging his sons, he yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Genesis 47:7-11, 27, 29, 30; 49:33

We thank Thee for the dear and faithful dead, for those who have made the distant heavens a Home for us, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts. One by one Thou dost gather the scattered families out of the earthly light into the heavenly glory, from the distractions and strife and weariness of time to the peace of eternity. We thank Thee for the labors and the joys of these mortal years. We thank Thee for our deep sense of the mysteries that lie beyond our dust, and for the eye of faith which Thou hast opened for all to outlook that mark. May we live altogether in Thy Faith and Love, and in that Hope which is full of Immortality. —Amen.

Rufus Ellis (1819-1885)

18

Moses

NOW there arose a new king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they also join themselves unto our enemies, and fight against us, and get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh store-cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch; and she put the child therein, and laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river-side; and she saw the ark among the flags, and sent her

handmaid to fetch it. And she opened it, and saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maiden went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses.

Exodus 1:8-12, 22; 2: 1-10

We give thanks unto Thee, for Thou art the Lord our God and the God of our fathers for ever and ever; Thou art the Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation through every generation. We will give thanks unto Thee and declare Thy praise for our lives which are committed unto Thy hand, and for our souls which are in Thy charge, and for Thy miracles, which are daily with us, and for Thy wonders and Thy benefits, which are wrought at all times, evening, morn and noon. O Thou who art all-good, whose mercies fail not; Thou, merciful Being, whose lovingkindness never ceases, we ever hope in Thee.—Amen.

Jewish Prayer Book

19

David and Goliath

NOW the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle; and they were gathered together at Socoh, which belongeth to Judah. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and encamped in the vale of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was clad with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a javelin of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and his shield-bearer went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. And when Saul and all Israel heard those words

of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant was keeping his father's sheep; and when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. And David said, Jehovah that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and Jehovah shall be with thee.

I Samuel 17:1-11, 24, 25, 32-37

O merciful God, be Thou now unto us a strong tower of defence, we humbly entreat Thee. Arm us with thine armor, that we may stand fast; above all things, taking

to us the shield of faith; praying always that we may refer ourselves wholly to Thy will, abiding Thy pleasure, and comforting ourselves in those troubles which it shall please Thee to send us, seeing such troubles are profitable for us; and we are assuredly persuaded that all Thou doest cannot but be well; and unto Thee be all honor and glory.—Amen.

Lady Jane Grey (1553)

20

David's Victory

AND Saul clad David with his apparel, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head, and he clad him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his apparel, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his wallet; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and withal of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will

give thy flesh unto the birds of the heavens, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin: but I come to thee in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will Jehovah deliver thee into my hand; and I will smite thee, and take thy head from off thee; and I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day unto the birds of the heavens, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that Jehovah saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is Jehovah's, and he will give you into our hand. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead; and the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran, and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

I Samuel 17:38-51

O Lord God, Thou art our refuge and our hope; on Thee alone we rest, for we find all to be weak and insuf-

ficient but Thee. Many friends cannot profit, nor strong helpers assist, nor prudent counsellors advise, nor the books of the learned afford comfort, nor any precious substance deliver, nor any place give shelter, unless Thou Thyself dost assist, strengthen, console, instruct and guard us.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

21

Saul's Jealousy

DAVID went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and it was good in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

And it came to pass as they came, when David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with timbrels, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women sang one to another as they played, and said,

Saul hath slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands.

And Saul was very wroth, and this saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the spear; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence,

and he smote the spear into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave of Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-gedi. Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet. Now David and his men were abiding in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, Behold, the day of which Jehovah said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thy hand, and thou shalt do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, Jehovah forbid that I should do this thing unto my lord, Jehovah's anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he is Jehovah's anointed. So David checked his men with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. And Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

I Samuel 18:5-9; 19:10; 22:1-2; 24:1-7

We offer up unto Thee our prayers and intercessions, for those especially who have in any matter hurt, grieved or found fault with us, or who have done us any damage or displeasure.

For all those also whom, at any time, we may have vexed, troubled, burdened and scandalized, by words or deeds, knowingly or in ignorance; that Thou wouldst grant us all equally pardon for our sins, and for our offenses against each other.

Take away from our hearts, O Lord, all suspiciousness, indignation, wrath, and contention, and whatsoever may hurt charity, and lessen brotherly love.

Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy on those that crave thy mercy, give grace unto them that stand in need thereof, and make us such as that we may be worthy to enjoy Thy grace, and go forward to life eternal—Amen.

Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

22

How David Spared His Enemy

DAVID also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth, and did obeisance. And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearkenest thou to men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that Jehovah had delivered thee to-day into my hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee; but *mine eye* spared thee; and I said, I will not put

forth my hand against my lord; for he is Jehovah's anointed. Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in my hand, and I have not sinned against thee, though thou huntest after my life to take it. Jehovah judge between me and thee, and Jehovah avenge me of thee; but my hand shall not be upon thee.

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rendered unto me good, whereas I have rendered unto thee evil. And thou hast declared this day how that thou hast dealt well with me, forasmuch as when Jehovah had delivered me up into thy hand, thou killedst me not. For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore Jehovah reward thee good for that which thou hast done unto me this day.

And now, behold, I know that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thy hand.

I Samuel 24:8-20

Father of all: we all are dear to Thee. Yet we are selfish, short-sighted, petty, continually tempted to be mean. Partly through our fault; partly through the fault of others, we clash with them, and they with us; and they become our enemies.

In so far as their enmity is due to any fault of ours, may we promptly humble ourselves, ask their forgiveness, and do our best to make amends. May we count no humiliation or sacrifice too great a price to pay for the restoration of good-will whenever by any act of ours, whether of omission or commission, it has been forfeited. May we remember we cannot be right with Thee, so long as we are wrong towards any of Thy children.

When others are at fault; when they hate us without cause; when they persist in wronging us; when they misrepresent as evil the good we try to do; while we defend our rights with firmness, may we be free from personal bitterness. May we never forget that our enemy is more than his wrong attitude toward us; may we remember that he is Thy child, our brother; still has some good qualities, and is capable of more. Thus even when compelled to oppose him, may we in courtesy and kindness show ourselves a friend to his better self; and win or at least deserve the restoration of his esteem.—Amen.*

William De Witt Hyde

23

King Solomon's Dream

IN Gibeon Jehovah appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant

* From *Abba Father,* by William De Witt Hyde. Copyright, 1908, by Fleming H. Revell Company.

David my father great lovingkindness, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great lovingkindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O Jehovah my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give thy servant therefore an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this thy great people?

And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life, neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern justice; behold, I have done according to thy word: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there hath been none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches and honor, so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee, all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days. And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream: and he came to Jerusalem,

and stood before the ark of the covenant of Jehovah, and offered up burnt-offerings, and offered peace-offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

I Kings 3:5-15

O Lord our God, teach us, we beseech Thee, to ask Thee aright for the right blessings. Steer Thou the vessel of our life toward Thyself, Thou tranquil Haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the course wherein we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let Thy Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide and enable us unto that which is our true good,—to keep Thy laws, and in all our works evermore to rejoice in Thy glorious and gladdening Presence. For Thine is the glory and praise from all Thy saints for ever and ever.—Amen.

St. Basil (329-379)

24

The Handwriting on the Wall

BELSHAZZAR the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king and his lords, his wives and his concubines, might drink therefrom. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives and his concubines,

drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

In the same hour came forth the fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed in him, and his thoughts troubled him; and the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. The king spake and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and show me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with purple, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then came in all the king's wise men; but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation. Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were perplexed.

Daniel 5:1-9

O Lord, we thank thee for a day so sweet and fair as this, when the trees lift up their hands in a psalm of gratitude to thee, and every little flower that opens its cup and every wandering bird seem filled by thy spirit, and grateful to thee. We thank thee for all thine handwritings of revelation on the walls of the world, on the heavens above us and the ground beneath, and all the testimonies recorded there of thy presence, thy power, thy justice and thy love.

We thank thee for thy loving kindness and thy tender mercy, which are over all thy works, and where we cannot see, save through a glass darkly, we will still trust thee, with infinite longing which casteth out every fear.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

25

Daniel Brought to Interpret

NOW the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever; let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed. There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, *I say,* thy father, made him master of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of dark sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.

Then was Daniel brought in before the king. The king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel who art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Judah? I have heard of thee, that thou canst give interpretations, and

dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with purple, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; nevertheless I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

Daniel 5:10-13, 16, 17

O Lord, who hast brought us through the darkness of night to the light of the morning, and who by Thy Holy Spirit dost illumine the darkness of ignorance and sin; we beseech Thee, of Thy loving kindness, to pour Thy holy light into our souls, that we may ever be devoted to Thee by whose wisdom we were created, by whose mercy we were redeemed, and by whose Providence we are governed.—Amen.

Book of Hours (1865)

26

The Interpretation of the Writing

THEN Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; nevertheless I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

O thou king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father the kingdom, and greatness, and glory, and majesty: and because of the greatness that he gave him,

all the peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew, and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he raised up, and whom he would he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: and he was driven from the sons of men, and his heart was made like the beasts', and his dwelling was with the wild asses; he was fed with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; until he knew that the Most High God ruleth in the kingdom of men, and that he setteth up over it whomsoever he will. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thy heart, though thou knewest all this, but hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou and thy lords, thy wives and thy concubines, have drunk wine from them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know; and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified. Then was the part of the hand sent from before him, and this writing was inscribed.

And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN (numbered, numbered, weighed and divided).

This is the interpretation of the thing: "Numbered"; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and brought it to an end. "Weighed"; thou art weighed in the balances, and

art found wanting. "Divided"; thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with purple, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

In that night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

Daniel 5:17-31

Lord of all, whose balance trieth the nations, to lift up or to cast down; Thou hast planted us, as a people, in quiet resting-places, and stretched out our branches over the sea, and laid upon us a mighty trust. Never through vain conceit may we be blind to the unchanging conditions of Thy blessing. The world and its fulness are Thine: our portion thereof may we hold, not in wanton self-will, but reverently, as of Thee; making it the stronghold of right, the refuge of the oppressed, and the moderator of lawless ambition. . . . Make all who speak or act for this nation true organs of Thine equity, that through their wisdom and faithfulness Thou mayest be our Lawgiver and Judge. And let it be that, as with the people so with the chiefs, as with the servants so with the master, as with the buyer so with the seller, all may know Thee as weighing the path of the just; that righteousness may be the girdle of our power.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

27

The Conspiracy Against Daniel

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty satraps, who should be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one; that these satraps might give account unto them, and that the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was distinguished above the presidents and the satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find occasion against Daniel as touching the kingdom; but they could find no occasion nor fault, forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Then these presidents and satraps assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the deputies and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a strong interdict, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the interdict.

Daniel 6:1-9

Almighty and merciful God, who dost grant unto Thy faithful people the grace to make every path of life temporal the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto life eternal, grant that we, who know that we have no strength as of ourselves to help ourselves, and therefore do put all our trust in Thine almighty power, nay, by the assistance of Thy heavenly grace, always prevail in all things, against whatsoever shall arise to fight against us.—Amen.

Roman Breviary

28

The Den of Lions

AND when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house (now his windows were open in his chamber toward Jerusalem); and he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled together, and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's interdict: Hast thou not signed an interdict, that every man that shall make petition unto any god or man within thirty days, save unto thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, who is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the interdict that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times

a day. Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to rescue him. Then these men assembled together unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians, that no interdict nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep fled from him.

Daniel 6:10-16, 18

Deliver us, O merciful God, from the evils of this day, and guide our feet in the ways of peace. Strengthen our resolutions to embrace with gladness all opportunities of doing good, and carefully to avoid all occasions of sin, especially those which we have found by experience to be most dangerous to our souls; and when, through frailty, we forget Thee, do Thou in Thy mercy remember us; that as we often fall by the inclination of our nature, we may instantly rise again by the assistance of Thy grace. Make us diligent in our calling and state of life, and not too solicitous for the success of our affairs; but in all the miscarriages and crosses of this world, absolutely submit to the divine pleasure, and wholly rely on Thy merciful providence. Let Thy blessing be upon our actions, and Thy grace direct our in-

tentions; that the whole course of our lives, and the principal designs of our hearts, may always tend to the advancement of Thy glory, the good of others, and the eternal salvation of our own souls.—Amen.

Key of Heaven

29

Daniel's Deliverance

THEN the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came near unto the den to Daniel, he cried with a lamentable voice; the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he had trusted in his God.

Then king Darius wrote unto all the peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, that in all the dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed; and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Daniel 6:19-23, 25-27

Blessed are all Thy saints, our God and King, who have travelled over the tempestuous sea of mortality, and have at last made the desired port of peace and felicity. Oh, cast a gracious eye upon us who are still in our dangerous voyage. Remember and succor us in our distress, and think on them that lie exposed to the rough storms of troubles and temptations. Strengthen our weakness, that we may do valiantly in this spiritual war; help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts. We are exceeding frail, and indisposed to every virtuous and gallant undertaking. Grant, O Lord, that we may bring our vessel safe to shore, unto our desired haven.—Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

III

Teachings Of Moses And The Prophets

30

The Ten Commandments

AND God spake all these words, saying,

I am Jehovah thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any likeness *of any thing* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I Jehovah thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing lovingkindness unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain; for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his servants, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Exodus 20:1-9, 12-17

O Lord, make Thy law, we entreat Thee, our delight. Plant in our hearts love which is the fulfilling of the law. Teach us to love Thee with our whole will and being, and our neighbor as ourselves. Keep us from dividing Thy commandments into great and small, according to our own blind estimate; but give us grace humbly to acknowledge that whoso transgresseth in one point is guilty of the whole law.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

31

Sundry Commandments

AND Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy; for I Jehovah your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father; and ye shall keep my sabbaths: I am Jehovah your God. Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am Jehovah your God.

And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt

not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleaning of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather the fallen fruit of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am Jehovah your God.

Ye shall not steal; neither shall ye deal falsely, nor lie one to another. And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, and profane the name of thy God; I am Jehovah.

Thou shalt not oppress thy neighbor, nor rob him: the wages of a hired servant shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind; but thou shalt fear thy God: I am Jehovah.

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor. Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am Jehovah.

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart: thou shalt surely rebuke thy neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people; but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18

Lord, may we keep the law which day by day Thou writest eternally in our flesh and in our soul, and serve Thee with every limb of our body, with our spirit's every faculty, and whatsoever power we gain over matter or over man. In us may there be such love and such trust

in Thee that we shall keep every law, do every duty, and make ourselves in Thy sight as fair as the flowers on earth, or the stars in heaven. May no unclean thing stain our hands, no wicked feeling despoil us of beauty within our hearts, and may we love our brothers as ourselves, and Thee above all. Thus from the baby-bud, whereinto we were born, may we open the great manly and womanly glory of the flower of earthly life, and bear fruit of eternal life in Thy kingdom of Heaven. So, day by day, may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

32

God Hath Showed Us His Glory

AND Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and observe to do them.

For, as ye have said, Behold, Jehovah our God hath showed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth speak with man, and he liveth.

For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? Go thou near, and hear all that Jehovah our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that Jehovah our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.

And Jehovah heard the voice of your words, when ye

spake unto me; and Jehovah said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

Oh that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever.

Ye shall observe to do therefore as Jehovah your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the way which Jehovah your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deuteronomy 5:1, 24, 26-29, 32, 33

O God, the Source of perfect blessedness, who dost teach Thy faithful ones to walk in Thy laws, to search Thy testimonies, to keep Thy commands; grant unto us, we beseech Thee, Thy righteousness, that we may seek Thee with our whole hearts; that we, who hitherto have wandered like lost sheep, restored by Thy kind arms, may rejoice in the glories of Paradise.—Amen.

Sarum Breviary (1085)

33

Thou Shalt Teach Them to Thy Children

NOW this is the commandment, the statutes, and the ordinances, which Jehovah your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither

ye go over to possess it; that thou mightest fear Jehovah thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as Jehovah, the God of thy fathers, hath promised unto thee, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah: and thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

When thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the ordinances, which Jehovah our God hath commanded you? then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt: and Jehovah brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. And it shall be righteousness unto us, if we observe to do all this commandment before Jehovah our God, as he hath commanded us.

Deuteronomy 6:1-7, 20, 21, 25

Eternal God, Thou uncreate and primal Light, maker of all created things, fountain of pity, Thou sea of bounty, fathomless deep of lovingkindness: lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us! Lord, shine in

our hearts, true sun of righteousness, and fill our souls with Thy beauty.

Teach us always to keep in mind Thy judgments, and discourse of them, and own Thee continually as our Lord and friend. Govern by Thy will the works of our hands; and lead us in the right way, that we may do what is well-pleasing and acceptable to Thee, that through us unworthy Thy holy name may be glorified.

To Thee alone be praise and honor and worship eternally.—Amen.

St. Basil (A. D. 329-379)

34

Lest Thou Forget!

FOR Jehovah thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig-trees and pomegranates; a land of olive-trees and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig copper. And thou shalt eat and be full, and thou shalt bless Jehovah thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Beware lest thou forget Jehovah thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his ordinances, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: lest, when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses,

and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget Jehovah thy God, who brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; and *lest* thou say in thy heart, My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember Jehovah thy God, for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth; that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as at this day. And it shall be, if thou shalt forget Jehovah thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations that Jehovah maketh to perish before you, so shall ye perish; because ye would not hearken unto the voice of Jehovah your God.

Deuteronomy 8:7-14, 17-20

We beseech Thee, O our God, to help us banish from our hearts all pride and vainglory, all confidence in worldly possessions, all self-sufficient leaning on our own reason. Fill us with the spirit of meekness, and the grace of modesty, that we may become wise in Thy fear. May we never forget that all we have and prize is but lent to us, a trust of which we must render an account to Thee. We beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, to put into our hearts the fear of Thee, that we may consecrate our lives to Thy service and glorify Thy name in the eyes of all peoples.—Amen.

Jewish Liturgy

35

What Doth Thy God Require?

AND now, Israel, what doth Jehovah thy God require of thee, but to fear Jehovah thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve Jehovah thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of Jehovah, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? Behold, unto Jehovah thy God belongeth heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth, with all that is therein.

For Jehovah your God, he is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, the mighty, and the terrible, who regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward. He doth execute justice for the fatherless and widow, and loveth the sojourner, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the sojourner; for ye were sojourners in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear Jehovah thy God; him shalt thou serve; and to him shalt thou cleave, and by his name shalt thou swear. He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen. Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now Jehovah thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

Therefore thou shalt love Jehovah thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his ordinances, and his commandments, alway.

Deuteronomy 10:12-14, 17-22; 11:1

O God, who art, and wast, and art to come, before whose face the generations rise and pass away; age after age the living seek Thee, and find that of Thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by Thy guidance, and rested on Thy compassion: still to their children be Thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where but in Thee have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life. In our manifold temptations, Thou alone knowest and art ever nigh: in sorrow, Thy pity revives the fainting soul: in our prosperity and ease, it is Thy Spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us low. O Thou sole Source of peace and righteousness! take now the veil from every heart; and join us in one communion with Thy prophets and saints who have trusted in Thee, and were not ashamed. Not of our worthiness, but of Thy tender mercy, hear our prayer.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

36

Jehovah's Blessing

AND it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love Jehovah your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the former rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy grain, and thy new wine, and thine oil. And I will give grass in thy fields for thy cattle, and thou shalt eat and be full.

Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and the anger of Jehovah be kindled against you, and he shut up the heavens, so that there shall be no rain, and the land shall not yield its fruit; and ye perish quickly from off the good land which Jehovah giveth you.

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul; and ye shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, talking of them, when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates; that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which Jehovah sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of the heavens above the earth.

Deuteronomy 11:13-21

Lord, give us hearts never to forget Thy love; but to dwell therein whatever we do, whether we sleep or wake, live or die, or rise again to the life that is to come. For Thy love is eternal life and everlasting rest; for this is life eternal to know Thee and Thy infinite goodness. O let its flame never be quenched in our hearts; let it grow and brighten, till our whole souls are glowing and shining with its light and warmth. Be Thou our Joy and Hope, our Strength and Life, our Shield and Shepherd, our Portion for ever. For happy are we if we continue in the love wherewith Thou hast loved us; holy are

we when we love Thee steadfastly. Therefore O Thou, Whose name and essence is Love, enkindle our hearts, enlighten our understandings, sanctify our wills, and fill all the thoughts of our hearts.—Amen.

Johann Arndt (1555-1621)

37

The Two Paths

FOR this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; in that I command thee this day to love Jehovah thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, that thou mayest live and multiply, and that Jehovah thy God may bless thee in the land whither thou goest in to possess it. But if thy heart turn away, and thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish; ye shall not prolong your days in the land, whither thou passest over the Jordan to go in

to possess it. I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed; to love Jehovah thy God, to obey his voice, and to cleave unto him; for he is thy life, and the length of thy days; that thou mayest dwell in the land which Jehovah sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

O God, who hast in mercy taught us how good it is to follow the holy desires which Thou manifoldly puttest into our hearts, and how bitter is the grief of falling short of whatever beauty our minds behold, strengthen us, we beseech Thee, to walk steadfastly throughout life in the better path; and give us wisdom to tread it prudently in Thy fear, as well as cheerfully in Thy love; so that, having been faithful to Thee all the days of our life here, we may be able hopefully to resign ourselves into Thy hands hereafter.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

38

Remember Thy Creator

TRULY the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. Yea, if a man live many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember the days of darkness, for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; before the sun, and the light, and the moon, and the stars, are darkened, and the clouds return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows shall be darkened, and the doors shall be shut in the street; when the sound of the grinding is low, and one shall rise up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; yea, they shall be afraid of *that which is* high, and terrors *shall be* in the way; and the almond-tree shall blossom, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his everlasting home, and the mourners go about the streets: before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returneth to the earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it.

This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole *duty* of man. For God will bring every work into

judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 11:7-10; 12:1-7, 13, 14

Thou who hast made for us this place of ease and hope, accept and inflame our gratitude; help us to repay, in service one to another, the debt of thine unmerited benefits and mercies, so that when the period of our stewardship draws to a conclusion, when the windows begin to be darkened, when the bond of the family is to be loosed, there shall be no bitterness of remorse in our farewells.

Help us to look back on the long way that Thou hast brought us, on the long days in which we have been served not according to our deserts but our desires; on the pit and the miry clay, the blackness of despair, the horror of misconduct, from which our feet have been plucked out. For our sins forgiven or prevented, for our shame unpublished, we bless and thank Thee, O God. Help us yet again and ever. So order events, so strengthen our frailty, as that day by day we shall come before Thee with this song of gratitude, and in the end we be dismissed with honor. In their weakness and in their fear, the vessels of thy handiwork so pray to Thee, so praise Thee.—Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

39

Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet

HEAR, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for Jehovah hath spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that deal corruptly! they have forsaken Jehovah, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are estranged *and gone* backward.

Your country is desolate; your cities are burned with fire; your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

Except Jehovah of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Hear the word of Jehovah, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. What unto me is the multitude of your sacrifices? saith Jehovah: I have had enough of the burnt-offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats.

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies,—I cannot away with iniquity and the solemn meeting.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to

do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it.

Isaiah 1:2-4, 7, 9-11, 13, 16-20

Lord, our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promises for those that love Thee with their whole heart; who art the life of all, the help of those that flee unto Thee, the Hope of those that cry unto Thee; cleanse us from our sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to thy goodness—cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto thee.—Amen.

Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil

40

Isaiah's Vision of the Days to Come

AND it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many peo-

ples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. And he will judge between the nations, and will decide concerning many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 2:2-5

O God, who art peace everlasting, whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who hast taught us that the peacemakers are Thy children, pour Thy sweet peace into our souls, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and all that makes for peace be sweet to us forever.—Amen.

Mozarabic Liturgy (700 A. D.)

41

Isaiah's Warning Against Intemperance

WOE unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that tarry late into the night, till wine inflame them! And the harp and the lute, the tabret and the pipe, and wine, are *in* their

feasts; but they regard not the work of Jehovah, neither have they considered the operation of his hands.

Therefore my people are gone into captivity for lack of knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude are parched with thirst. Therefore Sheol hath enlarged its desire, and opened its mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth among them, descend *into it.*

Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, and sin as it were with a cart rope.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink; that justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Therefore as the tongue of fire devoureth the stubble, and as the dry grass sinketh down in the flame, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust; because they have rejected the law of Jehovah of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore is the anger of Jehovah kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them; and the mountains tremble, and their dead bodies are as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 5:11-14, 18, 20-25

We entreat Thy mercy with our whole heart, that, as Thou defendest us against things adverse to the body, so Thou wilt set us free from the enemies of the soul; and, as Thou grantest to us to rejoice in outward tranquillity, so vouchsafe to us Thine inward peace.—Amen.

Leonine Sacramentary, 5th Century

42

The Righteous Judge

AND there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah. And his delight shall be in the fear of Jehovah; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decide after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:1-6, 9

O Root of Jesse, who standest for an ensign to the people: before whom kings shall shut their mouths, whom nations shall entreat: come to deliver us now, tarry not.

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest and no man openeth, come and bring forth the prisoner out of the prison-house, where he sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Day-spring, splendor of the eternal light, and Sun of righteousness, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O King of Gentiles, thou whom they long for, and Cornerstone that makest both one: come and save man whom thou formedst out of the clay.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the expected one of the Gentiles and their Savior, come to save us, O Lord our God.—Amen.

Sarum Breviary (1085)

43

When the Outcasts Are Recovered

AND in that day thou shalt say, I will give thanks unto thee, O Jehovah; for though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid: for Jehovah, *even* Jehovah, is my strength and song; and he is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Give thanks unto Jehovah,

call upon his name, declare his doings among the peoples, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto Jehovah; for he hath done excellent things: let this be known in all the earth. Cry aloud and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion; for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 12

Grant hope, O Lord, to them that seek Thee; inspire with courage all who wait for Thee, and be nigh unto all who trust in Thy name; that all men may walk in the light of Thy truth, and recognize that they are children of One Father, that One God has created them all. Then shall the just rejoice and the righteous be glad; then shall iniquity be no more and all men will render homage to Thee alone as their God and King.—Amen.

Liturgy of the Jewish Church

44

The Reproach of His People Will He Take Away

O JEHOVAH, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things, *even* counsels of old, in faithfulness *and* truth. For thou hast been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering that covereth all

peoples, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He hath swallowed up death for ever; and the Lord Jehovah will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the reproach of his people will he take away from off all the earth: for Jehovah hath spoken it.

And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is Jehovah; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:1, 4, 7-9

Almighty God, who canst give the light that in darkness shall make us glad, the life that in gloom shall make us joy, and the peace that amidst discord shall bring us quietness! let us live this day in that light, that life, and that peace, so that we may gain the victory over those things that press us down, and over the flesh that so often encumbers us, and over death that seemeth for a moment to win the victory. Thus we, being filled with inward peace, and light, and life, may walk all the days of this our mortal life, doing our work as the business of our Father, glorifying it, because it is Thy will, knowing that what Thou givest Thou givest in love. Bestow upon us the greatest and last blessing, that we, being in Thy presence may be like unto Thee for evermore.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

45

The Return of the Ransomed

LOOK upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tent that shall not be removed, the stakes whereof shall never be plucked up, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there Jehovah will be with us in majesty, a place of broad rivers and streams, wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. For Jehovah is our judge, Jehovah is our lawgiver, Jehovah is our king: he will save us.

Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye peoples: let the earth hear, and the fulness thereof; the world, and all things that come forth from it.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon: they shall see the glory of Jehovah, the excellency of our God.

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *with* the recompense of God; he will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams

in the desert. And the glowing sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water: in the habitation of jackals, where they lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for *the redeemed:* the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err *therein.* No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there:* and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 33:20-22; 34:1; 35:1-10

Eternal, our God, may Thy kingdom come speedily, and the worship of Thy name and obedience to Thy law unite all men in the bonds of brotherhood and peace, that every creature may know that Thou hast created it, and every living being exclaim: The Eternal, the God of Israel, ruleth, and His dominion endureth forever.—Amen.

Liturgy of Jewish Church

46

Good Tidings to Zion

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity

is pardoned, that she hath received of Jehovah's hand double for all her sins.

The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the uneven shall be made level, and the rough places a plain: and the glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up on a high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold, your God! Behold, the Lord Jehovah will come as a mighty one, and his arm will rule for him: Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom, *and* will gently lead those that have their young.

Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from Jehovah, and the justice *due* to me is passed away from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard? The everlasting God, Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:1-4, 9-11, 27-31

Almighty God, we give Thee thanks for the mighty yearning of the human heart for the coming of a Saviour, and the constant promise of Thy Word that He was to come. In our own souls we repeat the humble sighs and panting aspirations of ancient men and ages, and own that our souls are in darkness and infirmity without faith in Him who comes to bring God to man and man to God. We bless Thee for the tribute that we can pay to Him from our very sense of need and dependence, and that our own hearts can so answer from their wilderness, the cry, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." In us the rough places are to be made smooth, the crooked straight, the mountains of pride brought low, and the valleys of despondency lifted up. O God, prepare Thou the way in us now, and may we welcome Thy Holy Child. Hosanna! blessed be he who cometh in the name of the Lord.—Amen.

Samuel Osgood (1862)

47

The Triumph of Justice

HEARKEN to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek Jehovah: look unto the rock whence ye were hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye were digged. For Jehovah hath comforted Zion; he hath com-

forted all her waste places, and hath made her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of Jehovah; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Attend unto me, O my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall go forth from me, and I will establish my justice for a light of the peoples. My righteousness is near, my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the peoples; the isles shall wait for me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment; and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye dismayed at their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool; but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation unto all generations.

Isaiah 51:1, 3-8

O God, of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favorably on Thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; and, by the tranquil operation of Thy perpetual Providence, carry out the work of man's salvation; and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things

are returning to perfection through Him from whom they took their origin.—Amen.

Gelasian Sacramentary (494)

48

Put on Thy Strength, O Zion!

AWAKE, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit *on thy throne,* O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bonds of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

For thus saith Jehovah, Ye were sold for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for Jehovah hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. Jehovah hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52:1-3, 7, 9, 10

Eternal God, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us alternate mercies of the darkness and the day; there is no light but Thine, without, within. As Thou

liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with Thy morning upon our souls: quicken all our labor and our prayer: and though all else declines, let the noontide of Thy grace and peace remain. May we walk, while it is yet day, in the steps of Him who, with fewest hours, finished Thy divinest work.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

49

Ho, Every One That Thirsteth:

HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.

Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,

and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, and giveth seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing; and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree; and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree: and it shall be to Jehovah for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13

O God, who art the unsearchable abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings, and the bestower of affection, who sendest peace to those that receive it, open to us this day the sea of thy love, and water us with the plenteous streams from the riches of thy grace, and from the most sweet springs of thy benignity. Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace. Enkindle in us the fire of Thy love; sow in us Thy fear; strengthen our weakness by Thy power; bind us closely to Thee and to each other in one firm and indissoluble bond of unity.—Amen.

Syrian Clementine (400)

50

Then Shall Thy Light Rise in Darkness

CRY aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and declare unto my people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways: as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God, they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near unto God. Wherefore have we fasted, *say they,* and thou seest not? *wherefore* have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find *your own* pleasure, and exact all your labors. Behold, ye fast for strife and contention, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye fast not this day so as to make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I have chosen? the day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a rush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to Jehovah? Is not this the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy healing shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of Jehovah shall be thy rearward. Then shalt

thou call, and Jehovah will answer; thou shalt cry, and he will say, Here I am.

If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking wickedly; and if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul: then shall thy light rise in darkness, and thine obscurity be as the noonday; and Jehovah will guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in dry places, and make strong thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shine into our hearts, O loving Master, by the pure light of the knowledge of Thyself; and open the eyes of our mind to the contemplation of Thy . . . teaching, and put into us the fear of Thy blessed commandments; that trampling down all carnal appetites, we may follow a spiritual life, thinking and doing all things according to Thy good pleasure. For Thou art our sanctification and our illumination, and to Thee we render glory, . . . now and ever, and unto ages of ages.—Amen.

Daybreak Office of the Eastern Church

51

Arise, Shine; For Thy Light Is Come

ARISE, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Jehovah is risen upon thee. For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples; but Jehovah will arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: they all gather themselves together, they come to thee; thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then thou shalt see and be radiant, and thy heart shall thrill and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned unto thee, the wealth of the nations shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praises of Jehovah. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee; they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar; and I will glorify the house of my glory. Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, for the name of Jehovah thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, desolation

nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but Jehovah will be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself; for Jehovah will be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Isaiah 60:1-9, 18-20

O Thou, who art the true sun of the world, evermore rising, and never going down; who, by Thy most wholesome appearing and sight dost nourish, and make joyful all things, as well that are in heaven, as also that are on earth; we beseech Thee mercifully and favorably to shine into our hearts, that the night and darkness of sin, and the mists of error on every side, being driven away, Thou brightly shining within our hearts, we may all our life long go without stumbling or offence, and may walk as in the day-time, being pure and clean from the works of darkness, and abounding in all works which Thou hast prepared for us to walk in.—Amen.

Erasmus (1467-1536)

52

Isaiah's Warning to the Unfaithful

BEHOLD, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, yea, I will recompense into their bosom, your own iniquities, and the iniquities

of your fathers together, saith Jehovah, that have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I first measure their work into their bosom.

Thus saith Jehovah, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not, for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains; and my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there. And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me. But ye that forsake Jehovah, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for Fortune, and that fill up mingled wine unto Destiny; I will destine you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter; because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but ye did that which was evil in mine eyes, and chose that wherein I delighted not.

Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be put to shame.

Isaiah 65:6-13

O Merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering and of great pity, make us earnestly repent, and heartily to be sorry for all our misdoings; make the remembrance of them so burdensome and painful that we may flee to Thee with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart; and, O mer-

ciful Lord, visit, comfort, and relieve us; excite in us true repentance; give us in this world knowledge of Thy truth and confidence in Thy mercy, and, in the world to come, life everlasting. Strengthen us against sin, and enable us so to perform every duty, that whilst we live we may serve Thee in that state to which Thou hast called us; and, at last, by a holy and happy death, be delivered from the struggles and sorrows of this life, and obtain eternal happiness.—Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

53

The New Covenant

BEHOLD, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith Jehovah. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith Jehovah: I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith Jehovah; for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favorably on the whole body of those in whom Thy Holy Spirit dwells, and by Thy perpetual providence carry out the work of man's salvation; that all manner of tyranny and wrong may be cast down, and things which had grown old be made new, and all things return to perfection, through Him from whom they took their origin; even through the Word of Thy Counsel, and the Breathing of Thy Life, who art the living God.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

54

Who Beareth the Iniquity?

YET say ye, Wherefore doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die: the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

But if the wicked turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his transgressions that he hath committed shall be remembered against him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked? saith the Lord Jehovah; and not rather

that he should return from his way, and live? But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? None of his righteous deeds that he hath done shall be remembered: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord Jehovah. Return ye, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, wherein ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord Jehovah: wherefore turn yourselves, and live.

Ezekiel 18:19-24, 30-32

Almighty and most merciful Father, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, nor desireth the death of a sinner, look down with mercy upon us, and grant that we may turn from our wickedness and live. Forgive the days and years which we have passed in folly, idleness and sin. Fill us with such sorrow for the time misspent, that we may amend our lives according to Thy holy word; strengthen us against habitual idleness, and enable us to direct our thoughts to the performance of every duty, that while we live we may serve thee in the state to which thou shalt call us, and at last . . . obtain eternal happiness by thy mercy.—Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

55

The Watchman's Message

AND the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and set him for their watchman; if, when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning, if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him; whereas if he had taken warning, he would have delivered his soul.

So thou, son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? And thou, son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall he that is righteous be able to live thereby in the day that he sinneth. When I say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his righteousness, and commit iniquity, none of

his righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in his iniquity that he hath committed, therein shall he die. Again, when I say, unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; if the wicked restore the pledge, give again that which he had taken by robbery, walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be remembered against him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

Ezekiel 33:1-5, 7, 11-17

Almighty and eternal God, there is no number of Thy days or of Thy mercies: Thou hast sent us into this world to serve Thee, and to live according to Thy laws. O dear Lord, look upon us in mercy and pity: let Thy Holy Spirit lead us through this world with safety and peace, with holiness and religion, with spiritual comforts and joy; that when we have served Thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a holy conscience, in the confidence of a certain faith, and the comforts of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope, and perfect charity with Thee our God and all the world; that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, may be able to separate us from the love of God.—Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

56

The Vision of Dry Bones

THE hand of Jehovah was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of Jehovah, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. And he caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord Jehovah, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy over these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah. Thus saith the Lord Jehovah unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah.

So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and, behold, an earthquake; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I beheld, and, lo, there were sinews upon them, and flesh came up, and skin covered them above; but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off. Therefore prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. And I will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land: and ye shall know that I, Jehovah, have spoken it and performed it, saith Jehovah.

Ezekiel 37:1-12, 14

We are evil, O God, and help us to see it and amend. We are good, and help us to be better. Look down upon thy servants with a patient eye, even as Thou sendest sun and rain; look down, call upon the dry bones, quicken, enliven; re-create in us the soul of service, the spirit of peace; renew in us the sense of joy.—Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

57

We Will Walk in the Name of Jehovah, Our God

BUT in the latter days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow unto it. And many nations shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will

walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem; and he will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken it. For all the peoples walk every one in the name of his god: and we will walk in the name of Jehovah our God for ever and ever.

Micah 4:1-5

Whoever walks in thy presence, O Lord, is in the path to perfection. We never depart from this holy way but we lose sight of Thee, and cease to behold Thee in everything. Alas; where shall we go when we no longer see Thee, Thee who art our light, and the only goal to which our steps should tend? To have our eyes fixed on Thee in every step we take, is our only security that we shall never go astray. Faith! beaming with light amidst the darkness that surrounds us, we behold Thee with thy look of holy love and trust, leading man to perfection. O God, we will fix our eyes on Thee; we will behold Thee in everything that is around us. Our hearts shall still see Thee in the midst of the busy cares of life, in all its duties, in all its concerns; for they shall be fulfilled in obedience to thy will. "I will lift up my eyes unto the holy hills, whence cometh my strength."—Amen.

Fenelon (1651-1715)

58

The True Sacrifice

WHEREWITH shall I come before Jehovah, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?

As for me, I will look unto Jehovah; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, Jehovah will be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of Jehovah, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, *and* I shall behold his righteousness.

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth over the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in lovingkindness. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the lovingkindness to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Micah 6:6-8; 7:7-9, 18-20

O Lord, help us to turn and seek Thee; for Thou hast not forsaken Thy creatures as we have forsaken Thee, our Creator. Let us turn and seek Thee, for we know Thou art here in our hearts, when we confess to Thee, when we cast ourselves upon Thee, and weep in Thy bosom, after all our rugged ways; and Thou dost gently wipe away our tears, and we weep the more for joy; because Thou, Lord, who madest us, dost remake and comfort us.

Hear, Lord, our prayer, and grant that we may most entirely love Thee, and do Thou rescue us, O Lord, from every temptation, even unto the end.—Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

59

He Will Bring Me Forth to the Light

WOE is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat; my soul desireth the first-ripe fig. The godly man is perished out of the earth, and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. Their hands are upon that which is evil to do it diligently; the prince asketh, and the judge *is ready* for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth the evil desire of his soul: thus they weave it together. The best of them is as a brier; the most upright is *worse* than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen, even thy visitation, is come; now shall be their perplexity.

But as for me, I will look unto Jehovah; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, Jehovah will be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of Jehovah, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, *and* I shall behold his righteousness.

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Micah 7:1-4, 7-9, 18-20

We bless Thee, our Father and our Friend, for all that Thou hast given us, and for all that Thou hast taken from us; for all our trials and sorrows, as well as for all our joys. Thou hast mercifully led us through this wilderness, and hast borne with our many shortcomings and evil-doings. Thou art indeed most gracious and glorious, a father of mercies and a God of love. Rouse these sluggish hearts of ours, and fill them with gratitude. And be with us, Lord, for the time to come.—Amen.

Ashton Oxenden (1808-1892)

IV

Poetic Writings

60

Song of Moses and Miriam

JEHOVAH is my strength and song,
And he is become my salvation:
This is my God, and I will praise him;
My father's God, and I will exalt him.
Thy right hand, O Jehovah, is glorious in power,
Thy right hand, O Jehovah, dasheth in pieces the enemy.
Who is like unto thee, O Jehovah, among the gods?
Who is like thee, glorious in holiness,
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?
Thou in thy lovingkindness hast led the people that thou hast redeemed:
Thou hast guided them in thy strength to thy holy habitation.
Thou wilt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance,
The place, O Jehovah, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in,
The sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.
Jehovah shall reign for ever and ever.

Exodus 15:2, 6, 11, 13, 17, 18

Grant unto us, Almighty God, that that glory which filleth earth and heaven may also fill our hearts; that we,

being glorified by Thy graciousness, made happy by Thy love, made hopeful by Thy promise, may praise and magnify Thy holy Name, until such time as the praising of Thy holy Name shall lead us to the doing of Thy holy will; that we, becoming perfectly obedient thereunto, may possess the life of God in the days of time, that so, in the eternal years, we may be for ever Thine. Receive our thanksgivings, forgive our sins, strengthen our hope, make deep our faith; that so, all the days of this our mortal life, we, keeping Thy commandments, and leaning ever upon Thy mercy, may pass on our way until we, through the gate of death, enter into the life everlasting.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

61

The Song of Moses

GIVE ear, ye heavens, and I will speak;
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
For I will proclaim the name of Jehovah:
Ascribe ye greatness unto our God.
The Rock, his work is perfect;
For all his ways are justice:
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
Just and right is he.
Remember the days of old.
Consider the years of many generations:
Ask thy father, and he will show thee;
Thine elders, and they will tell thee.

He found him in a desert land,
And in the waste howling wilderness;
He compassed him about, he cared for him,
He kept him as the apple of his eye.
As an eagle that stirreth up her nest,
That fluttereth over her young,
He spread abroad his wings, he took them,
He bare them on his pinions.
Jehovah alone did lead him,
And there was no foreign god with him.
He made him ride on the high places of the earth,
And he did eat the increase of the field;
And he made him to suck honey out of the rock,
And oil out of the flinty rock;
Then he forsook God who made him,
And lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.
They sacrificed unto demons, *which were* no God,
To gods that they knew not,
To new *gods* that came up of late,
Which your fathers dreaded not.
Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful,
And hast forgotten God that gave thee birth.
And Jehovah saw *it*, and abhorred *them*,
Because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters.
And he said, I will hide my face from them,
I will see what their end shall be:
For they are a very perverse generation,
Children in whom is no faithfulness.
Oh that they were wise, that they understood this,
That they would consider their latter end!
How should one chase a thousand,

And two put ten thousand to flight,
Except their Rock had sold them,
And Jehovah had delivered them up?
For their rock is not as our Rock,
Even our enemies themselves being judges.
Deuteronomy 32:1, 3, 4, 7, 10-13, 15, 17-20, 29-31

Blessed is our God, who hath created us for his glory, and hath separated us from them that go astray, and hath given us the Law of truth and planted everlasting life in our midst. May he open our heart unto his Law, and place his love and fear within our hearts, that we may do his will and serve him with a perfect heart, that we may not labor in vain, nor bring forth confusion; that we may keep thy statutes in this world, and be worthy to live to witness and inherit happiness and blessing in the life of the world to come.

Jewish Prayer Book

62

David's Psalm of Praise

AND David spake unto Jehovah the words of this song in the day that Jehovah delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: and he said,

Jehovah is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, even mine;
God, my rock, in him will I take refuge;
My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge;

My saviour, thou savest me from violence.
He sent from on high, he took me;
He drew me out of many waters;
He delivered me from my strong enemy,
From them that hated me; for they were too mighty for me.
They came upon me in the day of my calamity;
But Jehovah was my stay.
Jehovah rewarded me according to my righteousness;
According to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.
For I have kept the ways of Jehovah,
And have not wickedly departed from my God.
With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful;
With the perfect man thou wilt show thyself perfect;
With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure;
And with the perverse thou wilt show thyself froward.
And the afflicted people thou wilt save;
As for God, his way is perfect:
The word of Jehovah is tried;
He is a shield unto all them that take refuge in him.
For who is God, save Jehovah?
And who is a rock, save our God?
God is my strong fortress;
And he guideth the perfect in his way.

II Samuel 22:1-3, 17-19, 21, 22, 26-28, 31-33

We thank Thee that Thou hast nowhere left Thyself without a witness, but everywhere makest revelations of Thyself, where day unto day uttereth speech of Thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge; yea, where

there is no other voice nor language, Thou, Lord, speakest, in Thine infinite wisdom and Thy boundless love. . . .

We remember before Thee the ages that are past and gone, and thank Thee for the great men whom Thou causedst to spring up in those days, great flowers of humanity, whose seeds have been scattered broadcast along the world, making the solitary place into a garden, and the wilderness to blossom like a rose. . . .

In the stern duties which are before us, Father in heaven, may Thy light burn clear in our tabernacle, and when Thou callest us may our lamps be trimmed and burning, our loins girt about, our feet readily sandalled for the road, and our souls prepared for Thee. Thus may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

63

David's Psalm of Thanksgiving

AND they brought in the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before God.

Then on that day did David first ordain to give thanks unto Jehovah, by the hand of Asaph and his brethren.

O give thanks unto Jehovah, call upon his name;
Make known his doings among the peoples.
Show forth his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvellous works among all the peoples.

For great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised:
He also is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols:
But Jehovah made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him:
Strength and gladness are in his place.
Ascribe unto Jehovah, ye kindreds of the peoples,
Ascribe unto Jehovah glory and strength;
Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto his name:
Bring an offering, and come before him;
Worship Jehovah in holy array.
Tremble before him, all the earth:
The world also is established that it cannot be moved.
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
And let them say among the nations, Jehovah reigneth.
Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof;
Let the field exult, and all that is therein;
Then shall the trees of the wood sing for joy before Jehovah;
For he cometh to judge the earth.
O give thanks unto Jehovah; for he is good;
For his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever.
And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation,
And gather us together and deliver us from the nations,
To give thanks unto thy holy name,
And to triumph in thy praise.
Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel,
From everlasting even to everlasting.
And all the people said, Amen, and praised Jehovah.

I Chronicles 16:1,7,8, 23-36

We give Thee thanks, yea, more than thanks, O Lord our God, for all Thy goodness at all times and in all places, because Thou hast shielded, rescued, helped, and guided us all the days of our lives, and brought us unto this hour. We pray and beseech Thee, merciful God, to grant in Thy goodness that we may spend this day, and all the time of our lives, without sin, in fulness of joy, holiness, and reverence of Thee. But drive away from us, O Lord, all envy, all fear, and all temptations. Bestow upon us what is good and meet. Whatever sin we commit in thought, word, or deed, do Thou in Thy goodness and mercy be pleased to pardon. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.—Amen.

Liturgy of St. Mark (175-254?)

64

Happy Is the Man Whom God Correcteth

BEHOLD, happy is the man whom God correcteth:
Therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.
For he maketh sore, and bindeth up;
He woundeth, and his hands make whole.
He will deliver thee in six troubles;
Yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.
In famine he will redeem thee from death;
And in war from the power of the sword.
Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue;
Neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

At destruction and dearth thou shalt laugh;
Neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.
For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field;
And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.
And thou shalt know that thy tent is in peace;
And thou shalt visit thy fold, and shalt miss nothing.
Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great,
And thine offspring as the grass of the earth.
Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age,
Like as a shock of grain cometh in in its season.

Job 5:17-26

Almighty God, who art the Strength of all who put their trust in Thee, grant unto us in the midst of the troubles of this mortal life, that, being confident in Thy wisdom and goodness, and Thine abiding love, we may endure all things in a quiet spirit, seeking ever in the midst of the things of this world to meditate oft-times upon the divine peace, and the heavenly rest of the glorified spirits of light; and being held up by Thy mercy, may neither faint nor fear, but pass on, doing faithfully the duties of life, and, in our last hour, supported by the Everlasting arms, we beseech Thee to guide us into the life everlasting.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

65

Man Is Quick to Find Material Treasures: Where Shall He Find Wisdom?

SURELY there is a mine for silver,
And a place for gold which they refine.
Iron is taken out of the earth,
And copper is molten out of the stone.
Man setteth an end to darkness,
And searcheth out, to the furthest bound,
The stones of obscurity and of thick darkness.
That path no bird of prey knoweth,
Neither hath the falcon's eye seen it:
The proud beasts have not trodden it,
Nor hath the fierce lion passed thereby.
He putteth forth his hand upon the flinty rock;
He overturneth the mountains by the roots.
He cutteth out channels among the rocks;
And his eye seeth every precious thing.
But where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof;
Neither is it found in the land of the living.
The deep saith, It is not in me;
And the sea saith, It is not with me.
It cannot be gotten for gold,
Neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
And where is the place of understanding?
Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living,
And kept close from the birds of the heavens.

Destruction and Death say,
We have heard a rumor thereof with our ears.
God understandeth the way thereof,
And he knoweth the place thereof.
When he made a decree for the rain,
And a way for the lightning of the thunder;
Then did he see it, and declare it;
He established it, yea, and searched it out.
And unto man he said,
Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
And to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28:1-3, 7-10, 12-15, 21-23, 26-28

O God of our fathers, and Lord of mercy, who hast made all things with thy word, and ordained man through thy wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which thou hast made, and order the world according to equity and righteousness, and execute judgment with an upright heart; give us wisdom that sitteth by thy throne, and reject us not from among thy children: for though a man be never so perfect among the children of men, yet if thy wisdom be not with him, he shall be nothing regarded. For the thoughts of men are miserable, and our devices are but uncertain. For the corruptible body presseth down the soul, and the earthly tabernacle weigheth down the mind that museth upon many things. And hardly do we guess aright at things that are upon earth, and with labor do we find the things that are before us: but the things that are in heaven, who hath searched out? and thy counsel, who hath known, except thou give wisdom, and send thy Holy

Spirit from above? For so the ways of them which lived on the earth were reformed, and men were taught the things that are pleasing unto thee, and were saved through wisdom.

"*Wisdom of Solomon*"—An apocryphal book written about 100 A. D.

66

The First Psalm

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor standeth in the way of sinners,
Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers:
But his delight is in the law of Jehovah;
And on his law doth he meditate day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water,
That bringeth forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also doth not wither;
And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
The wicked are not so,
But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous;
But the way of the wicked shall perish.

Psalm 1

O God, who art the great deep of eternal peace, and the vast sea of love, and the fountain of all blessings,

and ever sendest peace upon men of peace, open to us this day the sea of Thy love, and water us with plenteous streams from the riches of Thy grace and from the fresh springs of Thy benignity. Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace. Enkindle in us the fire of Thy love; sow in us Thy fear; strengthen our weakness by Thy power; bind us closely to Thee and to each other in a holy bond of unity.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

67

Give Ear to My Words, O Lord

GIVE ear to my words, O Jehovah,
Consider my meditation.
Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God;
For unto thee do I pray.
O Jehovah, in the morning shalt thou hear my voice;
In the morning will I order *my prayer* unto thee, and will keep watch.
For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness:
Evil shall not sojourn with thee.
The arrogant shall not stand in thy sight:
Thou hatest all workers of iniquity.
Lead me, O Jehovah, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies;
Make thy way straight before my face.
But let all those that take refuge in thee rejoice,
Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them:

Let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.
For thou wilt bless the righteous;
O Jehovah, thou wilt compass him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 5:1-5, 8, 11, 12

O God our Lord, the stay of all them that put their trust in Thee, wherever Thou leadest we would go, for Thy ways are perfect wisdom and love. Even when we walk through the dark valley, Thy light can shine into our hearts and guide us safely through the night of sorrow. Be Thou our Friend, and we need ask no more in heaven or earth; for Thou art the Comfort of all who trust in Thee, the Help and Defence of all who hope in Thee. O Lord, we would be Thine; let us never fall away from Thee. We would accept all things without murmuring from Thy hand, for whatever Thou dost is right. Blend our wills with Thine, and then we need fear no evil nor death itself, for all things must work together for our good. Lord, keep us in Thy love and truth; comfort us with Thy light; and guide us by Thy Holy Spirit. —Amen.

S. Weiss (1738-1805)

68

How Excellent Is Thy Name

O JEHOVAH, our Lord,
How excellent is thy name in all the earth,
Who hast set thy glory upon the heavens!
When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,

The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
And the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him but little lower than God,
And crownest him with glory and honor.
Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen,
Yea, and the beasts of the field,
The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
O Jehovah, our Lord,
How excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:1, 3-9

O Father, we pray Thee that we may never be false to the great glories with which Thou surroundest us, under our feet, and over our head, and the still diviner glories which Thou placest in our heart and soul. We pray Thee that within us our lives may be blameless, every faculty active and at its work, and that our outward lives may be useful, and all our existence blameless and beautiful in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. May our lives be marked every day by some new lesson that we have learned, some duty that we have done, some faithfulness that we have accomplished; and at last, when our mortal pilgrimage is ended, take us to Thyself, O Lord, to dwell with Thee, leaving behind us the memory of good deeds, and bearing a soul disciplined by the trials of life, and enlarged

by its blessings. So may we pass from glory to glory till we are changed into Thine own image, and the peace of Thy love is made perfect in us.—Amen.

Theodore Parker.

69

Thou Sittest in the Throne Judging Righteously

I WILL give thanks unto Jehovah with my whole heart;
I will show forth all thy marvellous works.
I will be glad and exult in thee;
I will sing praise to thy name,
O thou Most High.
For thou hast maintained my right and my cause;
Thou sittest in the throne judging righteously.
Jehovah sitteth *as king* for ever:
He hath prepared his throne for judgment;
And he will judge the world in righteousness,
He will minister judgment to the peoples in uprightness.
Jehovah also will be a high tower for the oppressed,
A high tower in times of trouble;
And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee;
For thou, Jehovah, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.
Sing praises to Jehovah, who dwelleth in Zion:
Declare among the people his doings.
For the needy shall not alway be forgotten,
Nor the expectation of the poor perish for ever.

Psalm 9:1-2, 4, 7-11, 18

O Lord, we acknowledge Thy dominion over us; our life, our death, our soul and body, all belong to Thee. Oh, grant that we may willingly consecrate them all to Thee, and use them in Thy service. Let us walk before Thee in childlike simplicity, steadfast in prayer; looking ever unto Thee, that whatsoever we do or abstain from we may in all things follow the least indications of Thy will. Become Lord of our hearts and spirits; that the whole inner man may be brought under Thy rule, and that Thy life of love and righteousness may pervade all our thoughts and energies and the very ground of our souls; that we may be wholly filled with it. Come, O Lord and King, enter into our hearts, and live and reign there for ever and ever. O faithful Lord, teach us to trust Thee for life and death, and to take Thee for our All in All.—Amen.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)

70

Thou Wilt Show Me the Path of Life

PRESERVE me, O God; for in thee do I take refuge.
O My soul, thou hast said unto Jehovah, Thou art my Lord:
I have no good beyond thee.
As for the saints that are in the earth,
They are the excellent in whom is all my delight.
Their sorrows shall be multiplied that give gifts for another *god:*
Their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer,

Nor take their names upon my lips.
Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup;
Thou maintainest my lot.
The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;
Yea, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless Jehovah, who hath given me counsel;
Yea, my heart instructeth me in the night seasons.
I have set Jehovah always before me:
Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth:
My flesh also shall dwell in safety.
For thou wilt not leave my soul in the grave;
Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption.
Thou wilt show me the path of life:
In thy presence is fulness of joy;
In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16

O God our heavenly Father, renew in us the sense of Thy gracious Presence, and let it be a constant impulse within us to peace, trustfulness, and courage on our pilgrimage. Let us hold Thee fast with a loving and adoring heart, and let our affections be fixed on Thee, that so the unbroken communion of our hearts with Thee may accompany us whatsoever we do, through life and in death. Teach us to pray heartily; to listen for Thy voice within, and never to stifle its warnings. Behold, we bring our poor hearts as a sacrifice unto Thee: come and fill Thy sanctuary, and suffer nought impure to enter there. O Thou Who art Love, let Thy Divine Spirit flow like a river through our whole souls, and lead us in

the right way till we pass by a peaceful death into the Land of Promise.—Amen.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)

71

Who Shall Abide in Thy Tabernacle?

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness,
And speaketh truth in his heart;
He that slandereth not with his tongue,
Nor doeth evil to his friend,
Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor;
In whose eyes a reprobate is despised,
But who honoreth them that fear Jehovah;
He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not;
He that putteth not out his money to interest,
Nor taketh reward against the innocent.
He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Psalm 15

Grant us, O Lord, to know what we ought to know, to love what we ought to love, to praise what is most pleasing to thee, to esteem what is precious in thy sight, to despise what is vile in thine eyes.

Suffer us not to judge according to the sight of the outward eyes, nor to pronounce according to the hearing of the ears of inexperienced men; but to determine both the things that are seen and spiritual things with

true judgment, and above all things ever to seek thy good will and pleasure.—Amen.

Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

72

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

THE heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament showeth his handiwork.
Day unto day uttereth speech,
And night unto night showeth knowledge.
There is no speech nor language;
Their voice is not heard.
Their line is gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.
In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
And rejoiceth as a strong man to run his course.
His going forth is from the end of the heavens,
And his circuit unto the ends of it;
And there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul:
The testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart:
The commandment of Jehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of Jehovah is clean, enduring for ever:
The ordinances of Jehovah are true, *and* righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is thy servant warned:
In keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern *his* errors?
Clear thou me from hidden *faults.*
Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins;*
Let them not have dominion over me:
Then shall I be upright,
And I shall be clear from great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight,
O Jehovah, my rock, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19

Our God, and God of our fathers! May Thy presence be manifest to us in all Thy works, and may reverence for Thee fill the hearts of all Thy creatures; may all the children of men bow before Thee in humility and unite to do Thy will with perfect hearts, and all acknowledge that Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the majesty, and that Thy name is exalted above all.—Amen.

Liturgy of Jewish Church.

73

Jehovah Answer Thee

JEHOVAH answer thee in the day of trouble:
The name of the God of Jacob set thee up on high;
Send thee help from the sanctuary,
And strengthen thee out of Zion;
Remember all thy offerings,
And accept thy burnt-sacrifice;
Grant thee thy heart's desire,
And fulfil all thy counsel.
We will triumph in thy salvation,
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners:
Jehovah fulfil all thy petitions.
Now know I that Jehovah saveth his anointed;
He will answer him from his holy heaven
With the saving strength of his right hand.
Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will make mention of the name of Jehovah our God.
They are bowed down and fallen;
But we are risen, and stand upright.
Save, Jehovah:
Let the King answer us when we call.

Psalm 20

May it be Thy will, O Lord our God and God of our fathers, to renew unto us this coming month for good and for blessing. O grant us long life, a life of peace, of

good, of blessing, of sustenance, of bodily vigor, a life marked by the fear of Heaven and the dread of sin, a life free from shame and reproach, a life of prosperity and honor, a life in which the love of the Law and the fear of Heaven shall cleave to us, a life in which the desires of our heart shall be fulfilled for good.—Amen.

Prayer of Rab. of Sura. From the "Talmud" (100-500 A. D.)

74

The Shepherd Psalm

JEHOVAH is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah for ever.

Psalm 23

O Shepherd of the sheep, who didst promise to carry the lambs in Thine arms, and to lead us by the still waters, help us to know the peace which passeth understanding. Give us to drink that heavenly draught which is life, the calm patience which is content to bear what God giveth. Have mercy upon us, and hear our prayers. Lead us gently when we pass through the valley of the shadow of death. Guide us, till at last, in the assembly of Thy saints, we may find rest forevermore.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

75

The Earth Is Jehovah's

THE earth is Jehovah's, and the fulness thereof;
The world, and they that dwell therein.
For he hath founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the floods.
Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;
Who hath not lifted up his soul unto falsehood,
And hath not sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive a blessing from Jehovah,
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
This is the generation of them that seek after him,
That seek thy face, *even* Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory will come in.

Who is the King of glory?
Jehovah strong and mighty,
Jehovah mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
Yea, lift them up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory will come in.
Who is this King of glory?
Jehovah of hosts,
He is the King of glory.

Psalm 24

Our God and God of our fathers, reign thou in thy glory over the whole universe, and be exalted above all the earth in thine honor, and shine forth in the splendor and excellence of thy might upon all the inhabitants of thy world, that whatsoever hath been made may know that thou hast made it, and whatsoever hath been created may understand that thou hast created it, and whatsoever hath breath in its nostrils may say, The Lord God of Israel is King, and his dominion ruleth over all. Sanctify us by thy commandments, and grant our portion in thy Law; satisfy us with thy goodness, and gladden us with thy salvation. O purify our hearts to serve thee in truth, for thou art God in truth and thy word is truth, and endureth for ever.—Amen.

Jewish Prayer Book

76

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

THE Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?
When evil-doers came upon me to eat up my flesh,
Even mine adversaries and my foes, they stumbled and fell.
Though a host should encamp against me,
My heart shall not fear:
Though war should rise against me,
Even then will I be confident.
One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of Jehovah,
And to inquire in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he will keep me secretly in his pavilion:
In the covert of his tabernacle will he hide me;
He will lift me up upon a rock.
And now shall my head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me;
And I will offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy;
I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto Jehovah.
Hear, O Jehovah, when I cry with my voice:
Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee,
Thy face, Lord, will I seek.
Hide not thy face from me;
Put not thy servant away in anger:
Thou hast been my help;
Cast me not off, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
When my father and my mother forsake me,
Then Jehovah will take me up.
Teach me thy way, O Jehovah;
And lead me in a plain path,
Because of mine enemies.
Deliver me not over unto the will of mine adversaries:
For false witnesses are risen up against me,
And such as breathe out cruelty.
I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of Jehovah
In the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord:
Be strong, and let thy heart take courage;
Yea, wait thou for the Lord.

Psalm 27

Almighty and Holy Spirit, the Comforter, pure, living, true,—illuminate, govern, sanctify us, and confirm our heart and mind in the faith, and in all genuine consolation; preserve and rule over us that, dwelling in the house of the Lord all the days of our life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, we may be and remain forever in

the temple of the Lord, and praise Him with a joyful spirit, and in union with all the heavenly church.—Amen.

Philip Melancthon (1497-1560)

(From his last prayer.)

77

Jehovah Preserveth the Faithful

IN thee, O Jehovah, do I take refuge;
Let me never be put to shame:
Deliver me in thy righteousness.
Bow down thine ear unto me; deliver me speedily:
Be thou to me a strong rock,
A house of defence to save me.
For thou art my rock and my fortress;
Therefore for thy name's sake lead me and guide me.
Into thy hand I commend my spirit:
Thou hast redeemed me, O Jehovah, thou God of truth.
I will be glad and rejoice in thy lovingkindness;
For thou hast seen my affliction:
Thou hast known my soul in adversities;
And thou hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy;
Thou hast set my feet in a large place.
Oh how great is thy goodness,
Which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee,
Which thou hast wrought for them that take refuge in thee,
Before the sons of men!

In the covert of thy presence wilt thou hide them from the plottings of man:
Thou wilt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.
Blessed be Jehovah;
For he hath showed me his marvellous lovingkindness in a strong city.
Oh love Jehovah, all ye his saints:
Jehovah preserveth the faithful,
And plentifully rewardeth him that dealeth proudly.
Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
All ye that hope in Jehovah.

Psalm 31: 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 19-21, 23, 24

O Heavenly Father, Who watchest always over Thy faithful people, and mightily defendest them, so that they be harmless preserved, we most heartily thank Thee, that it hath pleased Thy fatherly goodness to take care of us this night past. We most entirely beseech Thee, O most merciful Father, to show the like kindness toward us this day, in preserving our body and soul; that we may neither think, breathe, speak, or do anything that may be displeasing to Thy fatherly goodness, dangerous to ourselves, or hurtful to our neighbors; but that all our doings may be agreeable to Thy most blessed will, which is alway good; that they may advance Thy glory, answer to our vocations, and profit our neighbors, whom we ought to love as ourselves; that, whensoever Thou callest us hence, we may be found the children not of darkness but of light.—Amen.

Thomas Becon (1511-1570)

78

Rejoice in Jehovah, O Ye Righteous

REJOICE in Jehovah, O ye righteous:
Praise is comely for the upright.
For the word of Jehovah is right;
And all his work is *done* in faithfulness.
He loveth righteousness and justice:
The earth is full of the lovingkindness of Jehovah.
Let all the earth fear Jehovah:
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
The counsel of Jehovah standeth fast for ever,
The thoughts of his heart to all generations.
Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah,
The people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.
Jehovah looketh from heaven;
He beholdeth all the sons of men;
From the place of his habitation he looketh forth
Upon all the inhabitants of the earth,
He that fashioneth the hearts of them all,
That considereth all their works.
Behold, the eye of Jehovah is upon them that fear him,
Upon them that hope in his lovingkindness;
To deliver their soul from death,
And to keep them alive in famine.
Our soul hath waited for Jehovah:
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart shall rejoice in him,
Because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let thy lovingkindness, O Jehovah, be upon us,
According as we have hoped in thee.

Psalm 33:1, 4, 5, 8, 11-15, 18-22

O Lord, grant that our hearts may be truly cleansed and filled with Thy holy spirit, and that we may arise to serve Thee, and lie down to sleep in entire confidence in Thee, and submission to Thy will, ready for life or for death. Let us live for the day, not overcharged with worldly cares, but feeling that our treasure is not here, and desiring truly to be joined to Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom, and to those who are already gone to Thee. O Lord save us from sin, and guide us with Thy spirit, and keep us faithful in obedience to Thee.—Amen.

Thomas Arnold

79

I Will Bless Jehovah at All Times

I WILL bless Jehovah at all times:
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul shall make her boast in Jehovah:
The meek shall hear thereof, and be glad.
Oh magnify Jehovah with me,
And let us exalt his name together.
Oh fear Jehovah, ye his saints;
For there is no want to them that fear him.
The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger;
But they that seek Jehovah shall not want any good thing.
Come, ye children, hearken unto me:

I will teach you the fear of Jehovah.
Keep thy tongue from evil,
And thy lips from speaking guile.
Depart from evil, and do good;
Seek peace, and pursue it.
The eyes of Jehovah are toward the righteous,
And his ears are *open* unto their cry.
The face of Jehovah is against them that do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
Jehovah is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart,
And saveth such as are of a contrite spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous;
But Jehovah delivereth him out of them all.
He keepeth all his bones:
Not one of them is broken.
Evil shall slay the wicked;
And they that hate the righteous shall be condemned.
Jehovah redeemeth the soul of his servants;
And none of them that take refuge in him shall be *held guilty.*

Psalm 34:1-3, 9-11, 13-16, 18-22

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of Thy brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of Thy wisdom. All our desire is known unto Thee, therefore perfect what Thou hast begun, and what Thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek Thy face, turn Thy face unto us and show us Thy glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect. —Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

80

Fret Not Thyself Because of Evil-Doers

FRET not thyself because of evil-doers,
Neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness.
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb.
Trust in Jehovah, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on *his* faithfulness.
Delight thyself also in Jehovah;
And he will give thee the desires of thy heart.
Commit thy way unto Jehovah;
Trust also in him, and he will bring it to pass.
And he will make thy righteousness to go forth as the light,
And thy justice as the noonday.
Rest in Jehovah, and wait patiently for him:
Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way,
Because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
Cease from anger, and forsake wrath:
For evil-doers shall be cut off;
But those that wait for Jehovah, they shall inherit the land.
For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be:
Yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and he shall not be.
But the meek shall inherit the land,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

I have been young, and now am old;
Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken,
Nor his seed begging bread.
Wait for Jehovah, and keep his way,
And he will exalt thee to inherit the land:
When the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.
I have seen the wicked in great power,
And spreading himself like a green tree in its native soil.
But one passed by, and, lo, he was not:
Yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.
Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright;
For there is a *happy* end to the man of peace.
And Jehovah helpeth them, and rescueth them:
He rescueth them from the wicked, and saveth them,
Because they have taken refuge in him.

Psalm 37:1-11, 25, 34-37, 40

Lord, this is the work of a perfect man, never to let the mind slacken from attending to the heavenly things, and to pass through many cares as though without care; not after the manner of a sluggard, but by a certain prerogative of a free mind, which does not cleave with inordinate affection to any creature.

Preserve us, we beseech thee, O most compassionate God, from the cares of this life, that we be not too much entangled by them; from the many necessities of the body, that we may not be ensnared by pleasure; and from all hindrances of the soul, lest, being disheartened by troubles we be cast down.

Give us fortitude, that we may stand; patience that we may endure; constancy, that we may persevere. Give

us, in place of all the consolations of this world, the sweetest unction of thy spirit; and instead of carnal love, infuse into us the love of thy name.—Amen.

Thomas à Kempis

81

I Waited for the Lord

I WAITED patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Many, O Jehovah my God, are the wonderful works which thou hast done,
And thy thoughts which are to us-ward:
They cannot be set in order unto thee;
If I would declare and speak of them,
They are more than can be numbered.
Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Jehovah;
Let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.
For innumerable evils have compassed me about;
Mine iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up;
They are more than the hairs of my head;
And my heart hath failed me.

Be pleased, O Jehovah, to deliver me:
Make haste to help me, O Jehovah.
Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:
Let such as love thy salvation say continually,
Jehovah be magnified.

Psalm 40:1-3, 5, 11-13, 16

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul.—Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

82

Send Out Thy Light

JUDGE me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation:
Oh deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.
For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou cast me off?
Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
Oh send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me:
Let them bring me unto thy holy hill,
And to thy tabernacles.
Then will I go unto the altar of God,
Unto God my exceeding joy;
And upon the harp will I praise thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
And why art thou disquieted within me?
Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him,
Who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43

Eternal Light, before whom all darkness is light, and, in comparison with whom, every other light is but darkness! May it please Thee to send forth Thy light and Thy truth, that they may lead us. Purify, we pray Thee, our souls from all impure imaginations, that Thy most beautiful and holy image may be again renewed within us, and, by contemplating Thy glorious perfections, we may feel daily improved within us that Divine similitude, the perfection whereof we hope will at last make us forever happy in that full and beatific vision we aspire after. Till this most blessed day break, and the shadows fly away, let Thy Spirit be continually with us, and may we feel the powerful effects of Thy Divine grace constantly directing and supporting our steps; that all our endeavors, throughout the whole remaining part of our lives, may serve to promote the honor of Thy blessed Name.—Amen.

Robert Leighton (1611-1684)

83

God Is Our Refuge

GOD is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change,

And though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas;
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof.
Jehovah of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of Jehovah,
What desolations he hath made in the earth.
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;
He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder;
He burneth the chariots in the fire.
Be still, and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.
Jehovah of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46:1-3, 7-11

Most Great and Glorious God, who hast appointed the rivers to hasten with a rapid motion to the sea, be graciously pleased, we most humbly beseech Thee, to make the stream of our will perpetually to flow a cheerful and impetuous course, bearing down pleasure, interest, afflictions, death, and all other obstacles and impediments whatsoever, before it, till it plunge itself joyfully into the unfathomable ocean of Thy divine will.—Amen.

Charles How (1661-1784)

84

A Prayer for Pardon

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:
According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
And take not thy holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
And uphold me with a willing spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
And sinners shall be converted unto thee.
O Lord, open thou my lips;
And my mouth shall show forth thy praise.
For thou delightest not in sacrifice; else would I give it:
Thou hast no pleasure in burnt-offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51:1, 2, 10-13, 15-17

We humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, to do away as the night all our transgressions, and to scatter our sins as the morning cloud. Lord, forgive whatsoever is amiss in us, cleanse us from our sin, and let Thy

Holy Spirit so prevent and accompany and follow us day by day, that we may believe in Thee, and love Thee, and keep Thy commandments.—Amen.

Goulburn's Family Prayers

85

My Soul, Wait Thou in Silence

MY soul, wait thou in silence for God only;
For my expectation is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation:
He is my high tower; I shall not be moved.
With God is my salvation and my glory:
The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.
Trust in him at all times, ye people;
Pour out your heart before him:
God is a refuge for us.
Trust not in oppression,
And become not vain in robbery:
If riches increase, set not your heart *thereon.*
God hath spoken once,
Twice have I heard this,
That power belongeth unto God.
Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth lovingkindness;
For thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Psalm 62:5-8, 10-12

O Lord, let us not henceforth desire health or life, except to spend them for Thee, with Thee, and in Thee. Thou alone knowest what is good for us; do, therefore

what seemeth Thee best. Give to us, or take from us; conform our wills to thine; and grant that with humble and perfect submission and in holy confidence, we may receive the orders of Thine eternal Providence; and may equally adore all that comes from Thee.—Amen.

Pascal (1623-1662)

86

In the Shadow of Thy Wings

O GOD, thou art my God; earnestly will I seek thee:
My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee,
In a dry and weary land, where no water is.
Because thy lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips shall praise thee.
So will I bless thee while I live:
I will lift up my hands in thy name.
My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness;
And my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips;
When I remember thee upon my bed,
And meditate on thee in the night-watches.
For thou hast been my help,
And in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psalm 63:1, 3-7

O Lord our God, under the shadow of Thy wings let us hope. Thou wilt support us, both when little, and even to gray hairs. When our strength is of Thee, it is strength; but, when our own, it is feebleness. We return unto Thee, O Lord, that from their weariness our

souls may rise towards Thee, leaning on the things which Thou hast created, and passing on to Thyself, who hast wonderfully made them; for with Thee is refreshment and true strength.—Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

87

Praise Waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion

PRAISE waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion;
And unto thee shall the vow be performed.
O thou that hearest prayer,
Unto thee shall all flesh come.
Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee*,
That he may dwell in thy courts:
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house,
Thy holy temple.
By terrible things thou wilt answer us in righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
Thou that art the confidence of all the ends of the earth,
And of them that are afar off upon the sea:
Who by his strength setteth fast the mountains,
Being girded about with might;
Who stilleth the roaring of the seas,
The roaring of their waves,
And the tumult of the peoples.
They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens:

Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening
to rejoice.
Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it,
Thou greatly enrichest it;
The river of God is full of water:
Thou providest them grain, when thou hast so prepared
the earth.
Thou waterest its furrows abundantly;
Thou settlest the ridges thereof:
Thou makest it soft with showers;
Thou blessest the springing thereof.
Thou crownest the year with thy goodness;
And thy paths drop fatness.
They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness;
And the hills are girded with joy.

Psalm 65:1, 2, 4-12

Bless, O Lord, and crown the year with the riches of Thy goodness, for the sake of the poor, the widow, the fatherless, and the stranger; for the sake of all of us, who put our trust in Thee, and call upon Thy holy name: for the eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord, and Thou givest them their meat in due season.—Amen

Alexandrian Liturgy

88

God Be Merciful

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us,
And cause his face to shine upon us;
That thy way may be known upon earth,

Thy salvation among all nations.
Let the peoples praise thee, O God;
Let all the peoples praise thee.
Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy;
For thou wilt judge the peoples with equity,
And govern the nations upon earth.
Let all the peoples praise thee.
Let all the peoples praise thee.
The earth hath yielded its increase:
God, even our own God, will bless us.
God will bless us;
And all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Psalm 67

We therefore hope in Thee, O Lord our God, that we may speedily behold the glory of Thy might when Thou wilt remove the abominations from the earth, and the idols will be utterly cut off, when the world will be perfected under the kingdom of the Almighty, and all the children of flesh will call upon Thy name, when Thou wilt turn unto Thyself all the wicked of the earth. Let all the inhabitants of the world perceive and know that unto Thee every knee must bend, every tongue must swear. Before Thee, O Lord our God, let them bow and fall; and unto Thy glorious name let them give honor; let them all accept the yoke of Thy kingdom, and do Thou reign over them speedily, and for ever and ever.—Amen.

Jewish Prayer Book

89

In Thee Do I Take Refuge

IN thee, O Jehovah, do I take refuge:
Let me never be put to shame.
Deliver me in thy righteousness, and rescue me:
Bow down thine ear unto me, and save me.
Be thou to me a rock of habitation, whereunto I may continually resort:
Thou hast given commandment to save me;
For thou art my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.
Cast me not off in the time of old age;
Forsake me not when my strength faileth.
O God, thou hast taught me from my youth;
And hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.
Yea, even when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not,
Until I have declared thy strength unto *the next* generation,
Thy might to every one that is to come.
Thou, who hast showed us many and sore troubles,
Wilt quicken us again.
And wilt bring us up again from the depths of the earth.
Increase thou my greatness,
And turn again and comfort me.
I will also praise thee with the psaltery,
Even thy truth, O my God:

Unto thee will I sing praises with the harp,
O thou Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 71:1-4, 9, 17, 18, 20-22

Grant unto us, Almighty God, that when our vision fails, and our understanding is darkened; when the ways of life seem hard, and the brightness of life is gone,—to us grant the wisdom that deepens faith when the sight is dim, and enlarges trust when the understanding is not clear. And whensoever Thy ways in nature or in the soul are hard to be understood, then may our quiet confidence, our patient trust, our loving faith in Thee be great, and as children knowing that they are loved, cared for, guarded, kept, may we with a quiet mind at all times put our trust in the unseen God. So may we face life without fear, and death without fainting; and, whatsoever may be in the life to come, give us confident hope that whatsoever is best for us both here and hereafter is Thy good pleasure, and will be Thy law.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

90

Give the King Thy Judgments

GIVE the king thy judgments, O God,
And thy righteousness unto the king's son.
He will judge thy people with righteousness,
And thy poor with justice.
He will come down like rain upon the mown grass,

As showers that water the earth.
In his days shall the righteous flourish,
And abundance of peace, till the moon be no more.
He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,
And from the River unto the ends of the earth.
Yea, all kings shall fall down before him;
All nations shall serve him.
For he will deliver the needy when he crieth,
And the poor, that hath no helper.
He will have pity on the poor and needy,
And the souls of the needy he will save.
He will redeem their soul from oppression and violence;
And precious will their blood be in his sight:
And they shall live; and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba:
And men shall pray for him continually;
They shall bless him all the day long.
His name shall endure for ever;
His name shall be continued as long as the sun:
And men shall be blessed in him;
All nations shall call him happy.
Blessed be Jehovah God, the God of Israel,
Who only doeth wondrous things:
And blessed be his glorious name for ever;
And let the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen, and Amen.

Psalm 72:1, 2, 6-8, 11-15, 17-19

Almighty Lord, of whose righteous will all things are, and were created; who liftest the islands out of the deep,

and preparest not in vain the habitable world; Thou hast gathered our people into a great nation, and sent them to sow beside all waters, and multiply sure dwellings on the earth. Deepen the root of our life in everlasting righteousness; and let not the crown of our pride be as a fading flower. Make us equal to our high trusts; reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, generous in the protection of weakness. . . . To our Legislators and Counsellors give insight and faithfulness, that our laws may clearly speak the right, and our Judges purely interpret it. Let it be known among us how thou hatest robbery for burnt-offering; that the gains of industry may be all upright, and the use of wealth considerate. May wisdom and knowledge be the stability of our times: and our deepest trust be in Thee, the Lord of nations and the King of kings.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

91

Milton's Translation of the Eighty-fourth Psalm

HOW lovely are thy dwellings fair!
O Lord of Hosts, how dear
The pleasant tabernacles are,
Where thou dost dwell so near!
My soul doth long and almost die
Thy courts, O Lord to see;
My heart and flesh aloud do cry,
O living God, for thee.

There ev'n the sparrow freed from wrong
  Hath found a house of rest,
The swallow there, to lay her young
  Hath built her brooding nest,
Ev'n by thy altars, Lord of Hosts,
  They find their safe abode,
And home they fly from round the coasts
  Toward thee, my King, my God.
Happy, who in thy house reside,
  Where thee they ever praise,
Happy, whose strength in thee doth bide,
  And in their hearts thy ways.
They pass through Baca's thirsty vale,
  That dry and barren ground,
As through a fruitful wat'ry dale
  Where springs and show'rs abound.
They journey on from strength to strength
  With joy and gladsome cheer,
Till all before our God at length
  In Sion do appear.
Lord God of Hosts, hear now my prayer
  O Jacob's God, give ear,
Thou God our shield, look on the face
  Of thy anointed dear.
For one day in thy courts to be
  Is better, and more blest,
Than in the joys of vanity
  A thousand days at best.
I in the temple of my God
  Had rather keep a door,

Than dwell in tents and rich abode
With sin for evermore.
For God the Lord, both sun and shield,
Gives grace and glory bright,
No good from them shall be withheld
Whose ways are just and right.
Lord God of Hosts, that reign'st on high,
That man is truly blest,
Who only on thee doth rely,
And in thee only rest.

O God, in Thee alone can our wearied spirits find full satisfaction and rest, and in Thy love is the highest joy. Lord, if we have Thee we have enough; and we are happy if Thou wilt but give peace to our consciences, and make us know how gracious and merciful Thou art. Preserve in our hearts that peace which passeth all understanding; and make us better and holier in time to come. Strengthen those of us who are in any sorrow or perplexity by the inward comfort of Thy holy spirit, and bid us know that our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. For there will come a time when Thou wilt bring us to the place of perfect rest, where we shall behold Thy face in righteousness, and be satisfied from Thy eternal fullness.—Amen.

Melchior Ritter (1689)

92

Thou Hast Been Favorable Unto Thy Land

JEHOVAH, thou hast been favorable unto thy land;
Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.
Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people;
Thou hast covered all their sin.
Show us thy lovingkindness, O Jehovah,
And grant us thy salvation.
Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him,
That glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth are met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth springeth out of the earth;
And righteousness hath looked down from heaven.
Yea, Jehovah will give that which is good;
And our land shall yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him,
And shall make his footsteps a way *to walk in.*

Psalm 85:1, 2, 7, 9-13

Almighty God, who in former time leddest our fathers forth into a wealthy place, and didst set their feet in a large room, give Thy grace, we humbly beseech Thee, to us their children, that we may always approve ourselves a people mindful of Thy favors and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Defend our liberties; preserve our unity. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Fashion into one happy people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those whom we intrust in Thy name with the authority of governance, to the end that there may be peace at home, and that we keep our place among the nations of the earth. In the time of our prosperity, temper our self-confidence with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail.—Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

93

Teach Me Thy Way

BOW down thine ear, O Jehovah, and answer me;
For I am poor and needy.
For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in lovingkindness unto all them that call upon thee.
There is none like unto thee among the gods, O Lord;
Neither *are there any works* like unto thy works.
For thou art great, and doest wondrous things;
Thou art God alone.
Teach me thy way, O Jehovah; I will walk in thy truth:
Unite my heart to fear thy name.
Oh turn unto me, and have mercy upon me;
Give thy strength unto thy servant,
And save the son of thy handmaid.
Show me a token for good,
That they who hate me may see it, and be put to shame,

Because thou, Jehovah, hast helped me, and comforted me.

Psalm 86:1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17

From the night our spirit awaketh unto Thee, O God, for Thy precepts are a light unto us. Teach us, O God, Thy righteousness, Thy commandments, and Thy judgments. Enlighten the eyes of our mind, that we sleep not in sins unto death. Drive away all darkness from our hearts. Vouchsafe us the sun of righteousness. Guard our lives from all reproach by the seal of Thy holy spirit. Guide our steps into the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day with joyfulness, that we may send up to Thee our prayers at eventide.—Amen.

Day-break Office of Eastern Church

94

Jehovah's Realm

O JEHOVAH God of hosts,
Who is a mighty one, like unto thee, O Jehovah?
And thy faithfulness is round about thee.
Thou rulest the pride of the sea:
When the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.
Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain;
Thou hast scattered thine enemies with the arm of thy strength.
The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine:
The world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

The north and the south, thou hast created them:
Tabor and Hermon rejoice in thy name.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne:
Lovingkindness and truth go before thy face.
Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound:
They walk, O Jehovah, in the light of thy countenance.
In thy name do they rejoice all the day;
And in thy righteousness are they exalted.
For thou art the glory of their strength;
And in thy favor our horn shall be exalted.
For our shield belongeth unto Jehovah;
And our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 89:8-12, 14-18

O Lord our God, impose thine awe upon all thy works, and thy dread upon all that thou hast created, that all works may fear thee and all creatures prostrate themselves before thee, that they may all form a single band to do thy will with a perfect heart, even as we know, O Lord our God, that dominion is thine, strength is in thy hand, and might in thy right hand, and that thy name is to be feared above all that thou hast created.

Then shall the just also see and be glad, and the upright shall exult, and the pious triumphantly rejoice, while iniquity shall close her mouth, and all wickedness shall be wholly consumed by smoke, when thou makest the dominion of arrogance to pass away from the earth. —Amen.

Jewish Prayer Book

95

Psalm of the Fleeting Years

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place
In all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.
Thou turnest man to destruction,
And sayest, Return, ye children of men.
For a thousand years in thy sight
Are but as yesterday when it is past,
And as a watch in the night.
The days of our years are three-score years and ten,
Or even by reason of strength fourscore years;
Yet is their pride but labor and sorrow;
For it is soon gone, and we fly away.
So teach us to number our days,
That we may get us a heart of wisdom.
O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us,
And the years wherein we have seen evil.
Let thy work appear unto thy servants,
And thy glory upon their children.
And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us;
And establish thou the work of our hands upon us;
Yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Psalm 90:1-4, 10, 12, 14-17

O Righteous God! It is a solemn thing to live by day and night beneath thy constant eye and move onwards to thy mysterious eternity. Touch us with a sacred dread, that we may stand in awe and sin not; and then, may we have no other fear. Open our ears, as at a midnight watch, that we may be intent at the faintest approach of evil, and the softest whisper of thy grace. Fill us with the love of pureness, that we may redeem our lives from confusion, and lift up our wills from weakness, and in our conscience draw nearer to thy peace. Amid the temptations of passion and the eagerness of the world may we be of quiet heart; seeing that the fashion of this world passeth away. Set together by thee on the same field of duty and of danger, may we be all of one heart and mind; in pity relieving, in mercy forgiving, and in honor preferring one another; able to endure hardness together, as true soldiers of the cross; and seeing that we fall not out by the short and narrow way that leadeth unto life.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

96

He Is My Refuge

HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in whom I trust.
For he will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler,
And from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover thee with his pinions,
And under his wings shalt thou take refuge:
His truth is a shield and a buckler.
Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night,
Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
For the pestilence that walketh in darkness,
Nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
A thousand shall fall at thy side,
And ten thousand at thy right hand;
But it shall not come nigh thee.
For thou, O Jehovah, art my refuge!
Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation;
There shall no evil befall thee,
Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent.
For he will give his angels charge over thee,
To keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee up in their hands,
Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:
The young lion and the serpent shalt thou trample under foot.
Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:
I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble:
I will deliver him, and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him,
And show him my salvation.

Psalm 91

O Thou great Author of our being, who knowest all our wants, and who alone art able to supply them; who perceivest all the dangers and evils to which we are exposed, and who alone canst defend us; whither shall we go but unto thee! We pray thee to compassionate our weakness, to guard us in peril, to direct us in doubt, and to save us from falling into sin. In every exposure may thy shield be over us. From the evil that is around and within us, graciously deliver us. Make the path of duty plain before us, and keep us in it, even unto the end.—Amen.

King's Chapel Liturgy

97

It Is a Good Thing to Give Thanks

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto Jehovah.
And to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High;
To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning,
And thy faithfulness every night,
For thou, Jehovah, hast made me glad through thy work:
I will triumph in the works of thy hands.
How great are thy works, O Jehovah!
Thy thoughts are very deep.
A brutish man knoweth not;
Neither doth a fool understand this:
When the wicked spring as the grass,
And when all the workers of iniquity do flourish;
It is that they shall be destroyed for ever.
But thou, O Jehovah, art on high for evermore.
The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree:

He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of Jehovah;
They shall flourish in the courts of our God.
Thy shall still bring forth fruit in old age;
They shall be full of sap and green:
To show that Jehovah is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Psalm 92:1, 2, 4-8, 12-15

Remember, O Lord, all who bring forth fruit, and do good works in thy holy churches, and who are mindful of the poor, the widows, orphans, strangers and indigent persons, and all who desire to be remembered in our prayers.

And grant that we may all find mercy and favor with all thy saints, who, from the beginning of the world, have pleased thee in their several generations, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and every just spirit made perfect in the faith, from righteous Abel even unto this day; do thou give them and us rest in the region of the living, in the bosom of the holy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whence sorrow, grief, and lamentation are banished away, where the light of thy countenance visits and shines continually; and vouchsafe to bring them and us to the full enjoyment of thy heavenly kingdom.—Amen.

Bishop Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

98

Jehovah Reigneth

JEHOVAH reigneth; he is clothed with majesty;
Jehovah is clothed with strength; he hath girded himself therewith:
The world also is established, that it cannot be moved.
Thy throne is established of old:
Thou art from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O Jehovah,
The floods have lifted up their voice;
The floods lift up their waves.
Above the voices of many waters,
The mighty breakers of the sea,
Jehovah on high is mighty.
Thy testimonies are very sure:
Holiness becometh thy house,
O Jehovah, for evermore.

Psalm 93

Almighty God, Lord of the storm and of the calm, the vexed sea and the quiet haven, of day and of night, of life and of death—grant us so to have our hearts stayed upon Thy faithfulness, Thine unchangingness and love, that, whatsoever betide us, however black the cloud or dark the night, with quiet faith trusting in Thee, we may look upon Thee with untroubled eye, and walking in lowliness towards Thee, and in lovingness towards one another, abide all storms and troubles of this mortal life,

beseeching Thee that they turn to the soul's true good. —Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

99

O Come, Let Us Worship

OH come, let us sing unto Jehovah;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.
For Jehovah is a great God,
And a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the deep places of the earth;
The heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, and he made it;
And his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker:
For he is our God,
And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:1-7

O God, by whose will all things were made, and by whose truth they continue in being; we beseech Thee, to keep us under Thy shelter, lest we be cast down from our chief happiness by the swellings of pride; grant us ever to ascend into heaven by the steps of humility; and

because Thou art the Fountain of Life, from Thee may we drink what by faith we thirst for; in Thy light may we shine with the light of knowledge, and reap the fruit of righteousness in an everlasting exaltation.—Amen.

Mozarabic Liturgy (700 A. D.)

100

O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song

OH sing unto Jehovah a new song:
Sing unto Jehovah, all the earth.
Sing unto Jehovah, bless his name;
Show forth his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised:
He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols;
But Jehovah made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him:
Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe unto Jehovah, ye kindreds of the peoples,
Ascribe unto Jehovah glory and strength.
Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto his name:
Bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Oh worship Jehovah in holy array:
Tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, Jehovah reigneth:
The world also is established that it cannot be moved:
He will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof;
Let the field exult, and all that is therein;
Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy
Before Jehovah; for he cometh,
For he cometh to judge the earth:
He will judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 96

O Lord, whom all Thy good creatures bless and praise according to Thy gift unto each of them, grant, we pray Thee, that we on whom Thou hast bestowed reason and speech may ever bless Thee with heart and lips, and may of Thine infinite mercy inherit a blessing, even the eternal blessedness of heaven.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

101

Jehovah Reigneth; Let the Earth Rejoice

JEHOVAH reigneth; let the earth rejoice;
Let the multitude of isles be glad.
The heavens declare his rightousness,
And all the peoples have seen his glory.
For thou, Jehovah, art most high above all the earth:
Thou art exalted far above all gods.
O ye that love Jehovah, hate evil:
He preserveth the souls of his saints;
He delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Light is sown for the righteous,
And gladness for the upright in heart.
Be glad in Jehovah, ye righteous;
And give thanks to his holy memorial *name.*

Psalm 97:1, 6, 9-12

We bless and praise and magnify Thee, O God of our fathers, who hast led us out of the shadows of night once more into the light of day. Unto Thy loving kindness we make our entreaty; be merciful to our misdeeds; accept our prayers in the fulness of Thy compassions, for Thou art our refuge from one generation to another, O merciful and almighty God. Suffer the true Sun of Thy righteousness to shine in our hearts, enlighten our reason, and purify our senses; that so we may walk honestly as in the day, in the way of Thy commandments, and reach at last the life eternal, where we shall rejoice in Thy inaccessible life. For Thou art the Fountain of Life, and in Thy light shall we see light.—Amen.

Greek Church

102

Make a Joyful Noise, All the Earth

MAKE a joyful noise unto Jehovah, all the earth:
Break forth and sing for joy, yea, sing praises.
Sing praises unto Jehovah with the harp;
With the harp and the voice of melody.
With trumpets and sound of cornet
Make a joyful noise before the King, Jehovah.
Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof;

The world, and they that dwell therein;
Let the floods clap their hands;
Let the hills sing for joy together
Before Jehovah; for he cometh to judge the earth:
He will judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98:4-9

Praised Be Thou, O God, Almighty Ruler, who dost make the day bright with Thy sunshine, and the night with the beams of heavenly fires! Listen now to our prayers, and forgive us both our conscious and unconscious transgressions. Clothe us with the armor of righteousness; shield us with Thy truth; watch over us with Thy power; save us from all calamity; and give us grace to pass all the days of our life, blameless, holy, peaceful, free from sin, terror, and offence. For with Thee is mercy and plenteous redemption, our Lord and God, and to Thee we bring our thanks and praise.—Amen.

Greek Church

103

The One Hundredth Psalm

MAKE a joyful noise unto Jehovah, all ye lands.
Serve Jehovah with gladness:
Come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that Jehovah, he is God:
It is he that hath made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise:
Give thanks unto him, and bless his name.
For Jehovah is good; his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever,
And his faithfulness unto all generations.

Psalm 100

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life and for the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our Lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.—Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

104

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

BLESS Jehovah, O my soul;
And all that is within me, *bless* his holy name.
Bless Jehovah, O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities;
Who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;
Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;
Jehovah is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness.
He will not always chide;
Neither will he keep *his anger* for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins,
Nor rewarded us after our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is his lovingkindness toward them that fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
Like as a father pitieth his children,
So Jehovah pitieth them that fear him.
Jehovah hath established his throne in the heavens;
And his kingdom ruleth over all.
Bless Jehovah, ye his angels,
That are mighty in strength, that fulfil his word,
Hearkening unto the voice of his word.
Bless Jehovah, all ye his hosts,
Ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
Bless Jehovah, all ye his works,
In all places of his dominion:
Bless Jehovah, O my soul.

Psalm 103:1-4, 8-13, 19-22

Bless the Lord, O my soul! For doth not all nature around us praise Him? If we were silent, we should be an exception to the universe. Doth not the thunder praise Him as it rolls like drums in the march of the God

of armies? Do not the mountains praise Him when the woods upon their summits wave in adoration? Does not the lightning write His name in letters of fire upon the midnight darkness? Hath not the whole earth a voice, and shall we, can we, be silent? "Bless the Lord, O my soul."—Amen.

Charles H. Spurgeon

105

How Manifold Are Thy Works

BLESS Jehovah, O my soul.
O Jehovah my God, thou art very great;
Thou art clothed with honor and majesty:
Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment;
Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain;
Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters;
Who maketh the clouds his chariot;
Who walketh upon the wings of the wind;
Who maketh winds his messengers;
Flames of fire his ministers;
Who laid the foundations of the earth,
That it should not be moved for ever.
He watereth the mountains from his chambers:
The earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.
He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle,
And herb for the service of man;
That he may bring forth food out of the earth,
He appointed the moon for seasons:
The sun knoweth his going down.
Thou makest darkness, and it is night,

Wherein all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God.
The sun ariseth, they get them away,
And lay them down in their dens.
Man goeth forth unto his work
And to his labor until the evening.
O Jehovah, how manifold are thy works!
In wisdom hast thou made them all:
The earth is full of thy riches.
Let the glory of Jehovah endure for ever;
Let Jehovah rejoice in his works:
I will sing unto Jehovah as long as I live:
I will sing praise to my God while I have any being.
Bless Jehovah, O my soul.

Psalm 104:1-5, 13, 14, 19-24, 31, 33

O Lord, the Creator and Preserver of all things, who with unerring wisdom maintainest the beauty and order of thy works; we look up with joy and confidence unto thy gracious power, which causes the returning seasons to know their place. Bless, we beseech thee, the springing of the year, and enrich the earth with the rain of heaven. May grass grow for the cattle and herbs and fruits for the service of man. May our pastures be clothed with flocks, our valleys covered with corn, and the year crowned with thy goodness; and may we so improve the various blessings of thy providence in this world, as to be prepared for the unchangeable felicities of thine everlasting kingdom.—Amen.

King's Chapel Liturgy (1785)

106

O Give Thanks, for He Is Good

OH give thanks unto Jehovah; for he is good;
For his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever.
Let the redeemed of Jehovah say *so*,
Whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the adversary,
They wandered in the wilderness in a desert way;
They found no city of habitation.
Hungry and thirsty,
Their soul fainted in them.
Then they cried unto Jehovah in their trouble,
And he delivered them out of their distresses,
He led them also by a straight way,
That they might go to a city of habitation.
Oh that men would praise Jehovah for his lovingkindness,
And for his wonderful works to the children of men!
For he satisfieth the longing soul,
And the hungry soul he filleth with good.
Fools because of their transgression,
And because of their iniquities, are afflicted,
Their soul abhorreth all manner of food;
And they draw near unto the gates of death.
Then they cry unto Jehovah in their trouble,
And he saveth them out of their distresses.
He sendeth his word, and healeth them,
And delivereth *them* from their destructions.
Oh that men would praise Jehovah for his lovingkindness,
And for his wonderful works to the children of men!

And let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And declare his works with singing.

Psalm 107:1, 2, 4-9, 17-22

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, the God of our fathers, who turnest the shadow of death into the morning; who hast lightened our eyes, that we sleep not in death. O Lord, blot out as a night-mist our iniquities. Scatter our sins as a morning cloud. Grant that we may become children of the light, and of the day. Vouchsafe to keep us this day without sin. Uphold us when we are falling, and lift us up when we are down. Preserve this day from any evil of ours, and us from the evils of the day. Let this day add some knowledge, or good deed, to yesterday. Oh, let us hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning, for in Thee is our trust. Teach us to do the thing that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art our God. Let Thy loving Spirit lead us forth into the land of righteousness.—Amen.

Bishop Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

107

Whoso Is Wise Will Give Heed

OH that men would praise Jehovah for his lovingkindness,
And for his wonderful works to the children of men!
Let them exalt him also in the assembly of the people,
And praise him in the seat of the elders.
He turneth rivers into a wilderness,

And watersprings into a thirsty ground;
A fruitful land into a salt desert,
For the wickedness of them that dwell therein.
He turneth a wilderness into a pool of water,
And a dry land into watersprings.
And there he maketh the hungry to dwell,
That they may prepare a city of habitation,
And sow fields, and plant vineyards,
And get them fruits of increase.
He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly;
And he suffereth not their cattle to decrease.
Again, they are diminished and bowed down
Through oppression, trouble, and sorrow.
He poureth contempt upon princes,
And causeth them to wander in the waste, where there is no way.
Yet setteth he the needy on high from affliction,
And maketh *him* families like a flock.
The upright shall see it, and be glad;
And all iniquity shall stop her mouth.
Whoso is wise will give heed to these things;
And they will consider the lovingkindness of Jehovah.

Psalm 107:31-43

O Thou holy and unspeakable, Thou wonderful and mighty God, whose power and wisdom hath no end, before whom all powers tremble, at whose glance the heavens and the earth flee away, Thou art Love, Thou art our Father, and we will love and worship Thee forever and ever! Thou hast deigned to show pity on us, and a ray from Thy light hath shone upon our inward eye.

Guide us on into the perfect light, that it may illumine us wholly, and that all darkness may flee away. Let the holy flame of Thy love so burn in our hearts that they be made pure and we may see Thee, O God; for it is the pure in heart who see Thee. Thou hast set us free; Thou hast drawn us to Thee; therefore forsake us not, but keep us always in Thy grace. Guide us and rule us, and perfect us for Thy kingdom.—Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

108

The Works of His Hands Are Truth

PRAISE ye Jehovah.
I will give thanks unto Jehovah with my whole heart,
In the council of the upright, and in the congregation.
The works of Jehovah are great,
Sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.
His work is honor and majesty;
And his righteousness endureth for ever.
He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered:
Jehovah is gracious and merciful.
He hath given food unto them that fear him:
He will ever be mindful of his covenant.
He hath showed his people the power of his works,
In giving them the heritage of the nations.
The works of his hands are truth and justice;
All his precepts are sure.
They are established for ever and ever;
They are done in truth and uprightness.

He hath sent redemption unto his people;
He hath commanded his covenant for ever:
Holy and reverend is his name.
The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom;
A good understanding have all they that do *his commandments:*
His praise endureth for ever.

Psalm 111

O Lord God, Father of mercies, the fountain of comfort and blessing, of life and peace, of plenty and pardon, who fillest heaven with Thy glory, and earth with Thy goodness; we give Thee the most earnest, and most humble returns of glad and thankful hearts, for Thou hast refreshed us with Thy comforts, and enlarged us with Thy blessing; for, besides the blessings of all mankind, the blessings of nature and the blessings of grace, the support of every minute, and the comforts of every day, Thou hast poured out an excellent expression of Thy lovingkindness upon us. Thou, Lord, hast made us glad through Thy works; we will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hand. Blessed be the Lord who only doeth wondrous and gracious things. And blessed be the name of his majesty for ever; and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty.—Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

109

Blessed is the Man That Feareth the Lord

PRAISE ye Jehovah.
Blessed is the man that feareth Jehovah,
That delighteth greatly in his commandments.
His seed shall be mighty upon earth:
The generation of the upright shall be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in his house;
And his righteousness endureth for ever.
Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness:
He is gracious, and merciful, and righteous.
Well is it with the man that dealeth graciously and lendeth;
He shall maintain his cause in judgment.
For he shall never be moved;
The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.
He shall not be afraid of evil tidings:
His heart is fixed, trusting in Jehovah.
His heart is established, he shall not be afraid.
He hath dispersed, he hath given to the needy;
His righteousness endureth for ever:
His horn shall be exalted with honor.
The wicked shall see it, and be grieved;
He shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away:
The desire of the wicked shall perish.

Psalm 112

Grant unto us, Almighty God, Thy peace that passeth understanding; that we, amid the storms and trou-

bles of this our life, may rest in Thee, knowing that all things are in Thee, under Thy care, governed by Thy will, guarded by Thy love; so that with a quiet heart we may see the storms of life, the cloud and the thick darkness; ever rejoicing to know that the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. Guide, guard, and govern us even to the end, that none of us may fail to lay hold upon the immortal life.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

110

O That My Ways Were Established to Keep Thy Statutes

BLESSED are they that are perfect in the way,
Who walk in the law of Jehovah.
Blessed are they that keep his testimonies,
That seek him with the whole heart.
Yea, they do no unrighteousness;
They walk in his ways.
Thou hast commanded *us* thy precepts,
That we should observe them diligently.
Oh that my ways were established
To keep thy statutes!
Then shall I not be put to shame,
When I have respect unto all thy commandments.
I will give thanks unto thee with uprightness of heart,
When I learn thy righteous judgments.
I will observe thy statutes:
Oh forsake me not utterly.

Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.
With my whole heart have I sought thee:
Oh let me not wander from thy commandments.
Thy word have I laid up in my heart,
That I might not sin against thee.
Blessed art thou, O Jehovah:
Teach me thy statutes.
With my lips have I declared
All the ordinances of thy mouth.
I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies,
As much as in all riches.
I will meditate on thy precepts,
And have respect unto thy ways.
I will delight myself in thy statutes:
I will not forget thy word.

Psalm 119:1-16

Grant us clear insight into the truth, steadfast apprehension of the right, that through the mazes of this world's errors and temptations we may walk unhindered and unfalteringly the pathway of godliness. Grant us strength to do Thy will. Lead Thou us by the hand, as a father leadeth his child, lest we fall.

Satisfy us early through Thy mercy, that we may rejoice in Thee and give thanks unto Thee all the days of our life.—Amen.

Jewish Liturgy

111

Teach Me, O Jehovah

TEACH me, O Jehovah, the way of thy statutes;
And I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law;
Yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments;
For therein do I delight.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies,
And not to covetousness.
Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity,
And quicken me in thy ways.
Confirm unto thy servant thy word,
Which *is in order* unto the fear of thee.
Turn away my reproach whereof I am afraid;
For thine ordinances are good.
Behold, I have longed after thy precepts:
Quicken me in thy righteousness.
Oh how love I thy law!
It is my meditation all the day.
Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies;
For they are ever with me.
I have more understanding than all my teachers;
For thy testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the aged,
Because I have kept thy precepts.
I have refrained my feet from every evil way,
That I might observe thy word.
I have not turned aside from thine ordinances;

For thou hast taught me.
How sweet are thy words unto my taste!
Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through thy precepts I get understanding:
Therefore I hate every false way.
Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage for ever;
For they are the rejoicing of my heart.
I have inclined my heart to perform thy statutes
For ever, even unto the end.

Psalm 119:33-40, 97-104, 111, 112

Grant unto us, almighty God, the knowledge of Thy way, and the spirit of obedience thereunto, that, being confirmed in thought and words unto Thy way, Thy peace may rule in our hearts. Help us to cast out all those things which are contrary to Thy peace, or that are not according to Thy will, that so ours may be the quiet life of trust, and faith and obedience, living lowly, longing for thy truth, and walking in the light thereof, that Thy blessing may be upon us, and the light of our countenance our perpetual delight.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

112

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the mountains:
From whence shall my help come?
My help *cometh* from Jehovah,
Who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Will neither slumber nor sleep.
Jehovah is thy keeper:
Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.
Jehovah will keep thee from all evil;
He will keep thy soul.
Jehovah will keep thy going out and thy coming in
From this time forth and for evermore.

Psalm 121

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down in peace, and raise us up, O our King, unto life. Spread over us the tabernacle of Thy peace; direct us aright through Thine own good counsel; save us for Thy name's sake; be Thou a shield about us; remove from us every enemy, pestilence, sword, famine and sorrow; remove also the adversary from before us and from behind us. O shelter us beneath the shadow of Thy wings; for Thou, O God, art our Guardian and our Deliverer; yea, Thou, O God, art a gracious and merciful King; and guard our going out and our coming in unto life and unto peace from this Time forth and for evermore. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who guardest thy people for ever.

Jewish Prayer Book

113

Our Feet Stood Within Thy Gates

I WAS glad when they said unto me,
Let us go unto the house of Jehovah.
Our feet are standing
Within thy gates, O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem, that art builded
As a city that is compact together;
Whither the tribes go up, even the tribes of Jehovah,
For an ordinance for Israel,
To give thanks unto the name of Jehovah.
For there are set thrones for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
They shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls.
And prosperity within thy palaces.
For my brethren and companions' sakes,
I will now say, Peace be within thee.
For the sake of the house of Jehovah our God
I will seek thy good.

Psalm 122

We most earnestly beseech Thee, O Thou Lover of mankind, to bless all Thy people, the flocks of Thy fold. Send down into our hearts the peace of heaven, and grant us also the peace of this life. Give life to the souls of all of us, and let no deadly sin prevail against us, or any of Thy people. Deliver all who are in trouble, for

Thou art our God, who settest the captives free; who givest hope to the hopeless, and help to the helpless; who liftest up the fallen; and who art the Haven of the shipwrecked. Give Thy pity, pardon, and refreshment to every soul, whether in affliction or error. Preserve us, in our pilgrimage through this life from hurt and danger, and grant that we may end our lives as well-pleasing to Thee and free from sin, and that we may have our portion and lot with all Thy saints.—Amen.

Liturgy of St. Mark (175-254?)

114

Israel's Song of Deliverance

IF it had not been Jehovah who was on our side,
Let Israel now say,
If it had not been Jehovah who was on our side,
When men rose up against us;
Then they had swallowed us up alive,
When their wrath was kindled against us:
Then the waters had overwhelmed us,
The stream had gone over our soul;
Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.
Blessed be Jehovah,
Who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.
Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers:
The snare is broken, and we are escaped.
Our help is in the name of Jehovah,
Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124

O Lord, our God, who hast mercifully numbered us among the objects of Thy redeeming love, Thou art our glory and our joy, our hope and refuge in the day of our distress. But our love is yet feeble, and our holy resolutions imperfect: do Thou, therefore, visit us continually, and instruct us out of Thy law; deliver us from malignant passions and sensual desires, that, being healed and purified, we may love with more ardor, suffer with more patience, and persevere with more constancy.—Amen.

Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

115

They Are As Mount Zion

THEY that trust in Jehovah
Are as mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abideth for ever.
As the mountains are round about Jerusalem,
So Jehovah is round about his people
From this time forth and for evermore.
For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous;
That the righteous put not forth their hands unto iniquity.
Do good, O Jehovah, unto those that are good,
And to them that are upright in their hearts.
But as for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways,
Jehovah will lead them forth with the workers of iniquity.
Peace be upon Israel.

Psalm 125

In Thee, O Lord God, we place our whole hope and refuge; on Thee we rest all our tribulation and anguish; for we find all to be weak and inconstant, whatsoever we behold out of Thee. For many friends cannot profit, nor strong helpers assist, nor the books of the learned afford comfort, nor any place give shelter, unless Thou Thyself dost assist, strengthen, console, instruct, and guard us. For all things that seem to belong to the attainment of peace and felicity without Thee, are nothing, and do bring in truth no felicity at all. Thou therefore art the Fountain of all that is good; and to hope in Thee above all things is the strongest comfort of Thy servants. To Thee, therefore, do we lift up our eyes; in Thee, our God, the Father of mercies, do we put our trust.—Amen.

Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

116

Blessings of the Righteous

BLESSED is every one that feareth Jehovah,
That walketh in his ways.
For thou shalt eat the labor of thy hands:
Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.
Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine,
In the innermost parts of thy house;
Thy children like olive plants,
Round about thy table.
Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
That feareth Jehovah.

Jehovah bless thee out of Zion:
And see thou the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.
Yea, see thou thy children's children.
Peace be upon Israel.

Psalm 128

Confer upon us, O thou Almighty Spirit, the spirit of truth, the love of what is, the joy of thy commandments, the beauty of thy love, and let us in our daily lives, with simplicity of heart and purity of thought, seek to know thee, to know our own being, our inmost purpose, and may our thoughts and our purpose be alike consecrated to thee.

Let thy blessing be in every heart of man; let it be in every human dwelling, resting down in holy peace upon little children, upon youth, upon mature age and manhood, and upon the aged in years, and let all thy children be blessed in thee, their Father in heaven.—Amen.

Horatio Stebbins (1864-1902)

117

Out of the Depths

OUT of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Jehovah.
Lord, hear my voice:
Let thine ears be attentive
To the voice of my supplications.
If thou, Jehovah, shouldest mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with thee,
That thou mayest be feared.
I wait for Jehovah, my soul doth wait,
And in his word do I hope.
My soul *waiteth* for the Lord
More than watchmen *wait* for the morning;
Yea, more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, hope in Jehovah;
For with Jehovah there is lovingkindness,
And with him is plenteous redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
From all his iniquities.

Psalm 130

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore Thou those who are penitent; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind, and grant, O most merciful Father, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name.—Amen.

Episcopal Service Book

118

In the Day That I Called Thou Answeredst

I WILL give thee thanks with my whole heart:
Before the gods will I sing praises unto thee.
I will worship toward thy holy temple,
And give thanks unto thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth:
For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.
In the day that I called thou answeredst me,
Thou didst encourage me with strength in my soul.
All the kings of the earth shall give thee thanks, O Jehovah,
For they have heard the words of thy mouth.
Yea, they shall sing of the ways of Jehovah;
For great is the glory of Jehovah.
For though Jehovah is high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly;
But the haughty he knoweth from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me;
Thou wilt stretch forth thy hand against the wrath of mine enemies,
And thy right hand will save me.
Jehovah will perfect that which concerneth me:
Thy lovingkindness, O Jehovah, *endureth* for ever;
Forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Psalm 138

O Thou who art Love, and who seest all the suffering, injustice and misery which reign in this world, have pity, we implore Thee, on the work of Thy hands. Look mercifully upon the poor, the oppressed, and all who are heavy laden with error, labor, and sorrow. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer, and hasten the coming of Thy kingdom of justice and truth. —Amen.

Eugene Bersier (1831-1889)

119

Thou Hast Searched Me and Known Me

O JEHOVAH, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising;
Thou understandest my thought afar off.
Thou searchest out my path and my lying down,
And art acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word in my tongue,
But, lo, O Jehovah, thou knowest it altogether.
Thou hast beset me behind and before,
And laid thy hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain unto it.
Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there:
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there.
If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me,
And thy right hand shall hold me.
If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me,
And the light about me shall be night;
Even the darkness hideth not from thee,
But the night shineth as the day:
The darkness and the light are both alike *to thee.*
I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
Wonderful are thy works;
And that my soul knoweth right well.
How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand:
When I awake, I am still with thee.
Search me, O God, and know my heart:
Try me, and know my thoughts;
And see if there be any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:1-12, 14, 17, 18, 23, 24

Almighty God, be with thy people as thou hast been from of old. Let thy goodness be according to our wants, our ignorance, our weakness, frailty and sin. Thou knowest us altogether, and it is well for us that thou shouldst know us fully. May we by thy spirit be able to say with the sincerity and simplicity of a child-like heart, "Search me and know me, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Horatio Stebbins (1864-1902)

120

I Will Extol Thee, My God, O King

I WILL extol thee, my God, O King;
And I will bless thy name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless thee;
And I will praise thy name for ever and ever.
Great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised;
And his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud thy works to another,
And shall declare thy mighty acts.
Jehovah is gracious, and merciful;
Slow to anger, and of great lovingkindness.
Jehovah is good to all;
And his tender mercies are over all his works.
All thy works shall give thanks unto thee, O Jehovah;
And thy saints shall bless thee.
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And thy dominion *endureth* throughout all generations.
Jehovah is righteous in all his ways,
And gracious in all his works.
Jehovah is nigh unto all them that call upon him,
To all that call upon him in truth.
He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him;
He also will hear their cry, and will save them.
Jehovah preserveth all them that love him;
But all the wicked will he destroy.
My mouth shall speak the praise of Jehovah;
And let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Psalm 145:1-4, 8-10, 13, 17-21

O God! from whom all blessings descend, whom the storm and the thunder obey, preserve us from error; deign to inform our minds; attach us to that eternal reason by which Thou art guided and supported in the government of the world; that being ourselves honored we may also honor Thee, as becomes feeble and mortal beings, by celebrating Thy works in an uninterrupted hymn; for neither the inhabitant of earth, nor the inhabitant of heaven can be engaged in a service more noble than that of celebrating the divine mind which presides over Nature.—Amen.

Hymn of Cleanthes (about 210 B. C.)

121

Happy Is He That Hath the God of Jacob

WHILE I live will I praise Jehovah:
I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.
Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope is in Jehovah his God:
Who made heaven and earth,
The sea, and all that in them is;
Who keepeth truth for ever;
Who executeth justice for the oppressed;
Who giveth food to the hungry.
Jehovah looseth the prisoners;
Jehovah openeth *the eyes of* the blind;
Jehovah raiseth up them that are bowed down;
Jehovah loveth the righteous;

Jehovah preserveth the sojourners;
He upholdeth the fatherless and widow;
But the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.
Jehovah will reign for ever,
Thy God, O Zion, unto all generations.
Praise ye Jehovah.

Psalm 146:2, 5-10

O King of Peace, give us Thy peace; keep us in love and charity; be our God, for we know none beside Thee; we call upon Thy name; grant unto our souls the life of righteousness, that the death of sin may not prevail against us, or any of Thy people. . . . Relieve those who are in the prisons or in the mines, under accusations or condemnations, in exile or in slavery, or loaded with grievous tribute; deliver them all, for Thou art our God, who loosest those that are in bonds, and raisest those that are oppressed; the hope of the hopeless, the helper of the helpless, the lifter up of those who are fallen, the haven of those who are shipwrecked, the avenger of those who are injured. . . . And, O Lord, Thou physician of the soul and body, heal all our infirmities both of soul and bodies: O Thou, who art the overseer of all flesh, watch over us and heal us by Thy saving health.—Amen.

Alexandrian Liturgy

V

Proverbs

122

Jehovah Giveth Wisdom

MY son, if thou wilt receive my words,
And lay up my commandments with thee;
So as to incline thine ear unto wisdom,
And apply thy heart to understanding;
Yea, if thou cry after discernment,
And lift up thy voice for understanding;
If thou seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hid treasures:
Then shalt thou understand the fear of Jehovah,
And find the knowledge of God.
For Jehovah giveth wisdom;
Out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding:
He layeth up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to them that walk in integrity;
That he may guard the paths of justice,
And preserve the way of his saints.
Then shalt thou understand righteousness and justice,
And equity, *yea,* every good path.

Proverbs 2:1-9

Blessed God, who hath caused all good books for our learning, as Thou givest all good thoughts for our thinking, grant us not to misuse any gift of Thy wisdom or of Thy breath. So let us read all holy books carefully,

and listen to wise teachings modestly, and meditate on good sayings profitably, and let no pride or bodily humor harden our hearts; but above all, by the true presence of Thy holy breath, and by Thy constant blessing on all our words and works, lead us into Thy truth, and give us Thy peace, which the world cannot give.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

123

The Value of Wisdom

MY son, forget not my law;
But let thy heart keep my commandments:
For length of days, and years of life,
And peace, will they add to thee.
Let not kindness and truth forsake thee:
Bind them about thy neck;
Write them upon the tablet of thy heart:
So shalt thou find favor and good understanding
In the sight of God and man.
Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart,
And lean not upon thine own understanding:
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he will direct thy paths.
Be not wise in thine own eyes;
Fear Jehovah, and depart from evil:
Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,
And the man that getteth understanding.
For the gaining of it is better than the gaining of silver,
And the profit thereof than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies:
And none of the things thou canst desire are to be compared unto her.
Length of days is in her right hand;
In her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her:
And happy is every one that retaineth her.

Proverbs 3:1-7, 13-18

Almighty God, in whose hands are all the powers of man; who givest understanding, and takest it away; who, as it seemeth good unto Thee, enlightenest the thoughts of the simple, and darkenest the meditations of the wise, be present with us in our studies and inquiries. Grant, O Lord, that we may not lavish away the life which Thou hast given us on useless trifles, nor waste it in vain searches after things which Thou hast hidden from us.

Enable us, by Thy Holy Spirit, so to shun sloth and negligence, that every day may discharge part of the task which Thou hast allotted us; and so further with Thy help that labor which, without Thy help, must be ineffectual, that we may obtain, in all our undertakings, such success as will most promote Thy glory, and the salvation of our own souls.—Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

124

Doth Not Wisdom Cry?

DOTH not wisdom cry,
And understanding put forth her voice?
On the top of high places by the way,
Where the paths meet, she standeth;
Beside the gates, at the entry of the city,
At the coming in at the doors, she crieth aloud:
Unto you, O men, I call;
And my voice is to the sons of men.
Hear, for I will speak excellent things;
And the opening of my lips shall be right things.
All the words of my mouth are in righteousness;
There is nothing crooked or perverse in them.
Receive my instruction, and not silver;
And knowledge rather than choice gold.
For wisdom is better than rubies;
And all the things that may be desired are not to be compared unto it.
I wisdom have made prudence my dwelling,
And find out knowledge *and* discretion.
By me princes rule,
And nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth.
I love them that love me;
And those that seek me diligently shall find me.
Riches and honor are with me;
Yea, durable wealth and righteousness.
My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold;
And my revenue than choice silver.

I walk in the way of righteousness,
In the midst of the paths of justice:
Hear instruction, and be wise,
And refuse it not.
Blessed is the man that heareth me,
Watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at the posts of my doors.
For whoso findeth me findeth life,
And shall obtain favor of Jehovah.
But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul:
All they that hate me love death.

Proverbs 8:1-4, 6, 8, 10-12, 16-20, 33-36

O Thou, the Giver of good and beautiful gifts, we bring glad thanks for all great and noble teachers and helpers of our race; for every lesson of wisdom, justice, and goodness which they have taught us; for the light of the knowledge of thee, growing ever brighter; for the gospel of human brotherhood and for the hope of better days to come. May we devote ourselves with willing hearts to pass on the light of truth and goodness and to make the world better and happier.—Amen.

From a Service Book by Dr. Charles F. Dole

125

Wisdom's Dwelling

WISDOM hath builded her house;
She hath hewn out her seven pillars:
She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine;

She hath also furnished her table:
She hath sent forth her maidens;
She crieth upon the highest places of the city:
Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither:
As for him that is void of understanding, she saith to him,
Come, eat ye of my bread,
And drink of the wine which I have mingled.
Leave off, ye simple ones, and live;
And walk in the way of understanding.

He that correcteth a scoffer getteth to himself reviling;
And he that reproveth a wicked man *getteth* himself a blot.
Reprove not a scoffer, lest he hate thee:
Reprove a wise man, and he will love thee.
Give *instruction* to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser:
Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.
The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom;
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
For by me thy days shall be multiplied,
And the years of thy life shall be increased.

Proverbs 9:1-11

O Fount of wisdom! Light of lights! Who knowest every instant more than we could learn in everlasting years! may every opening of truth be to us as a glimpse of Thee. Yet let not our deep ignorance be as the hiding of Thy face, but only as a call to trust Thee, that Thou wilt lead the blind by a way that they knew not. Whatever else thou mayest withhold from us, O give us purity of heart to see Thee, and to trace Thy word

within our spirits, and follow Thy footsteps though they lose us in the mighty deep.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

126

A Page of Contrasts

A FALSE balance is an abomination to Jehovah;
But a just weight is his delight.
When pride cometh, then cometh shame;
But with the lowly is wisdom.
The integrity of the upright shall guide them;
But the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy them.
Riches profit not in the day of wrath;
But righteousness delivereth from death.
The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way;
But the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.
The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them;
But the treacherous shall be taken in their own iniquity.
When a wicked man dieth, *his* expectation shall perish;
And the hope of iniquity perisheth.
The righteous is delivered out of trouble;
And the wicked cometh in his stead.
With his mouth the godless man destroyeth his neighbor;
But through knowledge shall the righteous be delivered.
When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth;
And when the wicked perish, there is shouting.
By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted;

But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.
He that despiseth his neighbor is void of wisdom;
But a man of understanding holdeth his peace.
He that goeth about as a tale-bearer revealeth secrets;
But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter.
Where no wise guidance is, the people falleth;
But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:1-14

Grant us, we beseech Thee, almighty and most merciful God, fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfil, all that is well-pleasing unto Thee. Order Thou our worldly condition to the glory of Thy name; and, of all that Thou requirest us to do, grant us the knowledge, the desire and the ability, that we may so fulfil it as we ought, and may our path to Thee, we pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end.

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give us unconquered hearts which no tribulation can wear out; give us upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord, understanding to know Thee, diligence to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace Thee.—Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

127

Sundry Proverbs

A *GOOD* name is rather to be chosen than great riches,
And loving favor rather than silver and gold.
The rich and the poor meet together:
Jehovah is the maker of them all.
A prudent man seeth the evil, and hideth himself;
But the simple pass on, and suffer for it.
The reward of humility *and* the fear of Jehovah
Is riches, and honor, and life.
Thorns *and* snares are in the way of the perverse:
He that keepeth his soul shall be far from them.
Train up a child in the way he should go,
And even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:1-6

Almighty God, grant that by the faithful practice of the things that we know to be true, our hearts may be purged of all evil thoughts and desires, and we be brought back again to something of the pureness of spirit by which alone Thou mayest be served. Forgive all our wanderings from the light. Grant that we may escape this great condemnation—that light having come into the world, we have chosen darkness rather than light. Show us the light, and cause us to live in it, and by it to pass through the shadow of death with safety, and to abide with it forevermore.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

128

Sundry Proverbs

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath;
But a grievous word stirreth up anger.
The tongue of the wise uttereth knowledge aright;
But the mouth of fools poureth out folly.
The eyes of Jehovah are in every place,
Keeping watch upon the evil and the good.
A gentle tongue is a tree of life;
But perverseness therein is a breaking of the spirit.
A fool despiseth his father's correction;
But he that regardeth reproof getteth prudence.
In the house of the righteous is much treasure;
But in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.
The lips of the wise disperse knowledge;
But the heart of the foolish *doeth* not so.
The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Jehovah;
But the prayer of the upright is his delight.
The way of the wicked is an abomination to Jehovah;
But he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.
There is grievous correction for him that forsaketh the way;
And he that hateth reproof shall die.
Sheol and Abaddon are before Jehovah;
How much more then the hearts of the children of men!
A scoffer loveth not to be reproved;
He will not go unto the wise.
A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance;
But by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken.

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge;
But the mouth of fools feedeth on folly.
All the days of the afflicted are evil;
But he that is of a cheerful heart *hath* a continual feast.
Better is little, with the fear of Jehovah,
Than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Proverbs 15:1-16

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and consider our desires. Give unto us true humility, a meek and quiet spirit, a loving and a friendly, a holy and a useful manner of life; bearing the burdens of our neighbors, denying ourselves, and studying to benefit others, and to please Thee in all things. Grant us to be righteous in performing promises, loving to our relatives, careful of our charges; to be gentle and easy to be entreated, slow to anger, and readily prepared for every good work.—Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

129

Description of a Worthy Woman

A WORTHY woman who can find?
For her price is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband trusteth in her,
And he shall have no lack of gain.
She doeth him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
She seeketh wool and flax,

And worketh willingly with her hands.
She is like the merchant-ships;
She bringeth her bread from afar.
She riseth also while it is yet night,
And giveth food to her household,
And their task to her maidens.
She considereth a field, and buyeth it;
With the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
She girdeth her loins with strength,
And maketh strong her arms.
She perceiveth that her merchandise is profitable;
Her lamp goeth not out by night.
She layeth her hands to the distaff,
And her hands hold the spindle.
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;
Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid of the snow for her household;
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.
She maketh for herself carpets of tapestry;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sitteth among the elders of the land.
She maketh linen garments and selleth them,
And delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
Strength and dignity are her clothing;
And she laugheth at the time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
And the law of kindness is on her tongue.
She looketh well to the ways of her household.
And eateth not the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up, and call her blessed;

Her husband *also*, and he praiseth her, *saying:*
Many daughters have done worthily,
But thou excellest them all.
Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain;
But a woman that feareth Jehovah, she shall be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands;
And let her works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:10-31

O Lord, we thank Thee for our fathers who brought us up, who have gone before us and blessed us with manifold kindness and tenderness; and we bless Thee also for the mothers who bore and carefully tended us, and watched over our little heads and trained our infantile feet to walk in the ways of pleasantness and in the paths of peace.

We thank Thee for the noble nature which Thou hast given to woman, for the various faculties wherein she differs from man, for her transcendent mind which anticipates his slower thought. We bless Thee for her generous instincts of morality, of lovingkindness and tender mercy, and that deep religious power of intuition whereby she communes with Thy spirit face to face, and knows Thee and loves Thee with an exceeding depth of noble heart. We thank Thee for the great and lustrous women of other times and our own age, who spoke as they were moved by thy spirit, or who, with lives more eloquent than speech, ran before the world's great prophets and redeemers, smoothing the pathway which rougher feet were yet to tread, and shedding the balsam of their benediction on the air which mankind was to

breathe. We bless Thee for the noble and generous women in our own day, engaged in various callings and lots of human life. We thank Thee for those who relieve the sick, who recall the wandering from the way of wickedness, who smooth the pillow of suffering, who teach and instruct those who are ignorant, who lift up such as are fallen down, and overtake the aged or the juvenile wanderers who are outcasts from the world. Father, we bless Thee for all these blessings, which Thou givest to the world in this portion of humanity.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

130

A Father's Advice

MY son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. That thou mayest walk in the way of good men and keep the paths of the righteous.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee. Strive not with a man without cause if he have done thee no harm. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Thine own friend and thy father's friend forsake not.

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in

the way of evil men. Avoid it; pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. If sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Walk not in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path.

Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord, and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace is counted wise.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. He that hath a merry heart hath a continual feast.

He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest thy steps shall not be straitened, and when thou runnest thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her, for she is thy life.

Selected Proverbs

O thou, who requirest us to love them that love us, pour out thy blessings, great and manifold, upon all our friends and benefactors; all who have done or wish us well, many perhaps unknown to us; preserve them, O Lord, and keep them alive, that they may be blessed upon earth, and deliver them not into the will of their enemies.

O thou, who hast declared that our righteousness must far exceed that of publicans and sinners, grant us never to be wanting in kindness and civil respects to all who live peaceably and quietly in our neighborhood; but to be cheerful and ready in making suitable returns of love to all that love us. Our own friends, and our fathers' friends, and the children of both our friends, let us never ungratefully despise, neglect or forsake.—Amen.

Bishop Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

131

The Wise and the Foolish

INCLINE thine ear, and hear the words of the wise,
And apply thy heart unto my knowledge.
For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee,
If they be established together upon thy lips.
The way of a fool is right in his own eyes;
But he that is wise hearkeneth unto counsel.
A rebuke entereth deeper into one that hath understanding
Than a hundred stripes into a fool.
Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with bruised grain,
Yet will not his foolishness depart from him.
Walk with wise men, and thou shalt be wise;
But the companion of fools shall smart for it.
Counsel in the heart of man is *like* deep water;
But a man of understanding will draw it out.

Selected Proverbs

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the giver and guide of all reason, that we may always be mindful of the nature, of the dignity, and of the privileges Thou hast honored us with, that we may act in all things as becomes free agents, to the subduing and governing of our passions, to the refining them from flesh and sense, to the rendering them subservient to excellent purposes. Grant us also Thy favorable assistance in the forming and directing our judgment, and enlighten us with Thy truth, that we may discern those things which are really good, and having discovered them, may love and cleave steadfastly to the same. And, finally, disperse, we pray Thee, those mists which darken the eyes of our minds, that so we may have a perfect understanding, and know both God and man, and what to each is due.—Amen.

Simplicius (5th Century)

132

Treatment of the Poor and the Aged

THE glory of young men is their strength:
And the beauty of old men is the gray head.
The hoary head is a crown of glory
If it be found in the way of righteousness.
Children's children are the crown of old men:
And the glory of children are their fathers.

There is a generation that curse their father,
And bless not their mother.
There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes,

And *yet* are not washed from their filthiness.
There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes!
And their eyelids are lifted up.
There is a generation whose teeth are *as* swords,
And their jaw teeth *as* knives,
To devour the poor from off the earth,
And the needy from among men.
Whoso curseth his father or his mother,
His lamp shall be put out in blackness of darkness.
He that soweth iniquity shall reap calamity;
And the rod of his wrath shall fail.
Rob not the poor, because he is poor;
Neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:
For Jehovah will plead their cause,
And despoil of life those that despoil them.
He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed;
For he giveth of his bread to the poor.
Even a child maketh himself known by his doings,
Whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

Selected Proverbs

Pour into our hearts the spirit of unselfishness, so that, when our cup overflows, we may seek to share our happiness with our brethren. O Thou God of love, who makest Thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust, grant that we may become more and more Thy true children, by receiving into our souls more of thine own spirit of ungrudging and unwearying kindness.—Amen.

Hunter's Devotional Services (1895)

133

Treatment of Enemies

WHEN a man's ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. Lest the Lord see it and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

Fret not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious at the wicked, for there shall be no reward to the evil man, and the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work. Say not, I will recompense evil, but wait on the Lord and he shall save thee.

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honor. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Selected Proverbs

O our God! guard our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking guile; and to such as curse us let our soul be dumb, yea, let our soul be unto all as the dust. Open our hearts to the Law, and let our souls pursue thy com-

mandments. If any design evil against us, speedily make their counsel of none effect, and frustrate their designs. In order that thy beloved ones may be delivered, O save with thy right hand, and answer us. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable before Thee, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.—Amen.

Prayer of Mar. From the Talmud (100-500 A. D.)

134

The Slothful

I WENT by the field of the slothful and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw and considered it well: I looked upon it and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty: open thine eyes and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

He that is slothful in his works is brother to him that is a great waster.

Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer or ruler, pro-

videth her meat in summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep. So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth and thy want as an armed man.

Selected Proverbs

Give Thy blessing, we pray Thee, to this our daily work, that we may do it in faith and heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men. All our powers of body and mind are thine, and we would fain devote them to thy service. Sanctify them and the work in which they are engaged; let us not be slothful, but fervent in spirit, and do Thou, O Lord, so bless our efforts, that they may bring forth in us the fruits of true wisdom. Strengthen the faculties of our minds, and dispose us to exert them, but let us always remember to exert them for Thy glory, and for the furtherance of Thy kingdom, and save us from all pride, and vanity, and reliance upon our own power or wisdom. Give us this day thy holy spirit, that we may be Thine in body and spirit, in all our work and in all our refreshments.—Amen.

Thomas Arnold

135

The Use of Strong Drink

IT is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink and forget the law and pervert the judgment of

any of the afflicted. Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Be not among wine-bibbers, among riotous eaters of flesh; for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red; when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and they that are deceived thereby are not wise.

Selected Proverbs

Bless and sanctify our souls with thy heavenly blessing, that they may become thy holy habitation, and let nothing be found in these temples of thy divinity, which shall offend the eyes of thy majesty. According to the greatness of thy goodness and multitude of thy mercies, look upon us and hear the prayers of thy poor servants. Protect and keep our souls, amidst so many dangers of this life, and, by thy grace accompanying us, direct them along the way of peace, to their home of everlasting brightness.—Amen.

Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

136

Wisdom

HAPPY is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.

Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting, get understanding. Exalt her and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not and she shall preserve thee, love her and she shall keep thee.

Selected Proverbs

Almighty God, who art the giver of all wisdom, enlighten our understanding with knowledge of right, and govern our will by thy laws, that no deceit may mislead us, nor temptation corrupt us; that we may always endeavor to do good, and to hinder evil. Amidst all the hopes and fears of this world, take not thy Holy Spirit from us, but grant that our thoughts may be fixed on

Thee, and that we may finally attain everlasting happiness.—Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

137

Riches

HOW much better it is to get wisdom than gold; and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver. The treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivereth from death. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. Better is a dry morsel and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife. Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

There is that maketh himself rich yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet but it tendeth to poverty.

Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me. Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death.

Selected Proverbs

O beloved God, grant us to become beautiful in the inner man, and that whatever outward things we have may be at peace with those within.

May we deem the wise man rich, and may we have such a portion of gold as none but prudent men can either bear or employ.—Amen.

A Prayer of Socrates—Plato

138

The Value of Discretion

He that hath knowledge spareth his words,
And a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.
Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise,
And he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.
A fool uttereth all his mind,
But a wise man keepeth it till afterwards.
He that answereth a matter before he heareth it,
It is folly and shame to him.
He that goeth about as a tale-bearer revealeth secrets;
Therefore company not with him that openeth wide his lips.

For lack of wood the fire goeth out;
And where there is no whisperer, contention ceaseth.
As coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire,
So is a contentious man to inflame strife.
The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels,

And they go down into the innermost parts.
A false witness shall not be unpunished;
And he that uttereth lies shall not escape.
He that covereth a transgression seeketh love;
But he that harpeth on a matter separateth chief friends.
The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water:
Therefore leave off contention before there is quarreling.
Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Selected Proverbs

O Lord, lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us; let Thy peace rule our hearts; and may it be our strength and our song in the course of our pilgrimage. We commit ourselves to Thy care and keeping this day. Let Thy grace be mighty in us, and may it work both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure; and grant us strength for all the duties of the day. Keep us from sin; give us the rule over our own spirits; and keep us from speaking unadvisedly with our lips. May we live together in peace and holy love, and do Thou command Thy blessing upon us, even life forevermore.—Amen.

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

139

The Value of Kindliness

A MAN that hath friends must show himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

A wrathful man stirreth up strife but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

A fool uttereth all his anger; but a wise man keepeth it back and stilleth it.

A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.

Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth up the bones.

Selected Proverbs

O Almighty God, help us to put away all bitterness and wrath and evil-speaking, with all malice. May we possess our souls in patience, however we are tempted and provoked, and not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. Enable us, O God of patience, to bear one another's burdens, and to forbear one another in love. Oh, teach and help us all to live in peace and to love in truth, following peace with all men and walking in love. Subdue all bitter resentments in our minds, and let the law of kindness be in our tongues, and a meek and quiet spirit in all our lives. Make us so gentle and peaceable that we may be followers of Thee as dear children, that Thou, the God of peace, mayest dwell with us forevermore.—Amen.

Benjamin Jenks (1646-1724)

VI

Discourses And Parables Of Jesus

140

The Sermon on the Mount

AND seeing the multitudes, he went up into the mountain: and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye when *men* shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.

Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do *men* light a lamp, and put it un-

der the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:1-12, 14-16

Father in heaven, so gifted as we are, surrounded so, and so destined for immortal welfare, we pray Thee that we may live great and noble lives on the earth, unfolding our nature day by day, using our bodies for their purpose, and the soul for its higher use, growing wiser and better as we change time into life, and daily work into exalted character. So may we live that every day we learn some new truth, practise some new virtue, and become dearer and more beautiful in thine own sight. So may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

141

The New Law

YE have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others?* do not even the Gentiles the same? Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:38-48

O God, who hast commanded us to be perfect, as Thou our Father in heaven art perfect: put into our hearts, we pray Thee, a continual desire to obey Thy holy will. Teach us day by day what Thou wouldest have us do, and give us grace and power to fulfil the same. May we never from love of ease, decline the path which Thou pointest out, nor, for fear of shame, turn away from it. —Amen.

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

142

The Perfect Prayer

TAKE care not to perform your religious duties in public in order to be seen by others; if you do, your Father who is in Heaven has no reward for you.

Therefore, when you do acts of charity, do not have a trumpet blown in front of you, as hypocrites do in the

Synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. There, I tell you, is their reward! But, when you do acts of charity, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your charity may be secret; and your Father, who sees what is in secret, will recompense you.

And, when you pray, you are not to behave as hypocrites do. They like to pray standing in the Synagogues and at the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. There, I tell you, is their reward! But, when one of you prays, let him go into his own room, shut the door, and pray to his Father who dwells in secret; and his Father, who sees what is secret, will recompense him. When praying, do not repeat the same words over and over again, as is done by the Gentiles, who think that by using many words they will obtain a hearing. Do not imitate them; for God, your Father, knows what you need before you ask him. You, therefore, should pray thus—

Our Father, who art in Heaven, May thy name be held holy, thy kingdom come, thy will be done—on earth, as in Heaven. Give us to-day the bread that we shall need; and forgive us our wrong-doings, as we have forgiven those who have wronged us; and take us not into temptation, but deliver us from Evil.

For, if you forgive others their offences, your heavenly Father will forgive you also; but, if you do not forgive others their offences, not even your Father will forgive your offences.*

Matthew 6:1-15

* From the *Twentieth Century New Testament,* Copyright, 1904, by Fleming H. Revell Co.

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, for ever.—Amen.

143

The True Treasure

LAY not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24-33

O God, from whom we have received life and all earthly blessings, vouchsafe to give unto us each day what we need; give unto all of us strength to perform faithfully our appointed tasks, bless the work of our hands and of our minds. Grant that we may ever serve Thee, in sickness and in health, in necessity and in abundance, sanctify our joys and our trials; and give us grace to seek first Thy kingdom and its righteousness, in the sure and certain faith that all else shall be added unto us.—Amen.

Eugene Bersier (1831-1889)

144

The Golden Rule

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, who, if his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone; or if he shall ask for a fish, will give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:1-5, 7-12

Soften our hearts, O Lord, that we may be moved no less at the necessities and griefs of our neighbors, than if they concerned ourselves, or the cases that touched us nearest, and let us think them to befall even to our dearest friends. Let us pity them as ourselves, and, in their adversity, let us have compassion upon them, that, as we would have pitied ourselves for the like cause, so we may be moved with pity towards those, whom we see oppressed with the same adversities.—Amen.

Ludovicus Dives (1578)

145

Not Every One That Saith Unto Me, Lord, Lord

NOT every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were astonished at his teaching: for he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 7:21-29

Arise, O Lord, who judgest the earth; and as Thou dwellest in and possessest the faith of all nations, suffer

us not to abide in darkness; and grant that we may not lay the foundations of our faith on the sand where the whirlwind may overthrow them, but be established on the rock which is steadfast in Thee.—Amen.

Mozarabic Liturgy (before 700)

146

The Parable of the Sower

AND he spake to them many things in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went forth to sow; and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the birds came and devoured them: and others fell upon the rocky places, where they had not much earth: and straightway they sprang up, because they had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And others fell upon the thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked them: and others fell upon the good ground, and yielded fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He that hath ears, let him hear.

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? And he answered and said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear.

Hear then ye the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth

it not, *then* cometh the evil *one*, and snatcheth away that which hath been sown in his heart. This is he that was sown by the way side. And he that was sown upon the rocky places, this is he that heareth the word, and straightway with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while; and when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, straightway he stumbleth. And he that was sown among the thorns, this is he that heareth the word; and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. And he that was sown upon the good ground, this is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; who verily beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 13:3-11, 16, 18-23

O thou discerner of thoughts! May we not fall into the snares of a self-deceiving mind. When our holy resolves spring up, may they not wither away because there is no deepness of earth: but, O thou Lord of the harvest, enrich the furrows of our nature, and hide thy good seed from the cares of this world, and nourish it with the dews of thy pure grace. . . . May a constant sense of thy presence give us a composed and reverent soul, open our lips with thoughtful and quiet words, fill us with great and gentle thoughts, and sweep away with a holy breath every dust of care, every trace of fear, and every taint of an uncharitable mind.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

147

The Goodly Pearl

ANOTHER parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened.

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in the field; which a man found, and hid; and in his joy he goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a merchant seeking goodly pearls: and having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was filled, they drew up on the beach; and they sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but the bad they cast away.

Matthew 13:33, 44-48

O God, our true Life, in whom and by whom all things live, Thou commandest us to seek Thee, and art ready to be found; Thou biddest us to knock, and openest when we do so. To know Thee is life, to serve Thee is freedom, to enjoy Thee is a kingdom, to praise Thee is the joy and happiness of the soul. We praise, and bless, and adore Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. We humbly

beseech Thee to abide with us, to reign in us, to make these hearts of ours a holy temple, a fit habitation for Thy Divine majesty. O Thou Maker and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible! keep, we beseech Thee, the work of Thine own hands, who trust in Thy mercy alone for safety and protection. Guard us with the power of Thy grace, here and in all places, now and at all times, forevermore.—Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

148

The Parable of the Tares

ANOTHER parable set he before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man that sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. But when the blade sprang up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. And the servants of the householder came and said unto them, Sir, didst thou not sow good seed in thy field? whence then hath it tares? And he said unto them, An enemy hath done this. And the servants say unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he saith, Nay; lest haply while ye gather up the tares, ye root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather up first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.

Then he left the multitudes, and went into the house:

and his disciples came unto him, saying, Explain unto us the parable of the tares of the field. And he answered and said, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; and the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom: and the tares are the sons of the evil *one;* and the enemy that sowed them is the devil: and the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are angels. As therefore the tares are gathered up and burned with fire; so shall it be in the end of the world. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that hath ears, let him hear.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40, 43

Grant, O heavenly Father, that we may so faithfully believe in Thee, and so fervently love one another, alway living in Thy fear, and in the obedience of Thy holy law and blessed will, that we, being fruitful in all good works, may lead our life according to Thy good pleasure in this transitory world and, after this frail and short life, obtain the true and immortal life, where thou livest and reignest, world without end.—Amen.

Thomas Becon (1511-1567)

149

Who Then Is Greatest In the Kingdom of Heaven?

IN that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst

of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me: but whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and *that* he should be sunk in the depth of the sea.

Woe unto the world because of occasions of stumbling! for it must needs be that the occasions come; but woe to that man through whom the occasion cometh! And if thy hand or thy foot causeth thee to stumble, cut it off, and cast it from thee: it is good for thee to enter into life maimed or halt, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into the eternal fire.

See that ye despise not one of these little ones: for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 18:1-8, 10

O God, who puttest into our hearts such deep desire, that we cannot be at peace until we enjoy the feeling of Thy love; mercifully grant that the unspeakable sighing of our souls' need may not go unsatisfied because of any unrighteousness of heart, which must divide us from the All-holy One; but strengthen us to do right by whomsoever we have wronged in thought, word, or deed; to renounce all plans of wrong-doing for the future; to purify our thoughts, and govern our appetites, so that we

may have no bar between us and Thy glory, but enjoy Thy peace which passeth understanding.—Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

150

A Lesson in Forgiveness

THEN came Peter and said to him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? until seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, who would make a reckoning with his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, that owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not *wherewith* to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And the lord of that servant, being moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, who owed him a hundred shillings: and he laid hold on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay what thou owest. So his fellow-servant fell down and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay that which was due. So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were exceeding sorry,

and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord called him unto him, and saith to him, Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me: shouldest not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.

Matthew 18:21-35

O Lord, because being compassed with infirmities we oftentimes sin and ask pardon, help us to forgive as we would be forgiven; neither mentioning old offences committed against us, nor dwelling upon them in thought, nor being influenced by them in heart; but loving our brother freely as Thou freely lovest us.—Amen.

C. G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

151

What Good Thing Shall I Do?

AND behold, one came to him and said, Teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why askest thou me concerning that which is good? One there is who is good: but if thou wouldest enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? And Jesus said, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father

and thy mother; and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I observed: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions.

Matthew 19:16-22

Warm our cold hearts, Lord, we beseech Thee. Take away all that hinders us from giving ourselves to Thee. Mould us according to Thine own image. Give us grace to obey Thee in all things, and ever to follow Thy gracious leading. Make us this day to be kind to our fellowmen, to be gentle and unselfish, careful to hurt no one by word or deed, but anxious to do good to all, and to make others happy. O Lord, forgive the sins of our temper. Pardon all our hasty words and unchristian thoughts. Make us watchful, that we offend not with our tongue. Give us a meek and loving spirit, which is in Thy sight of great price. We would not live unto ourselves, but unto Thee. Keep us from sin this day, and all that may offend Thee.—Amen.

Ashton Oxenden (1808-189?)

152

The Parable of the Laborers

FOR the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that was a householder, who went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the laborers for a shilling a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing in the marketplace idle; and to them he said, Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh *hour* he went out, and found others standing; and he saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard. And when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and pay them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a shilling. And when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received every man a shilling. And when they received it, they murmured against the householder, saying, These last have spent *but* one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat. But he answered and said to one of them, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a shilling? Take up that which is thine,

and go thy way; it is my will to give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? or is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last.

Matthew 20:1-16

O Spirit of grace, who withholdest Thy blessing from none! take from us the tediousness and anxiety of a selfish mind, the unfruitfulness of cold affections, the weakness of an inconstant will. With the simplicity of a great purpose, the quiet of a meek temper, and the power of a well-ordered soul, may we pass through the toils and watches of our pilgrimage; grateful for all that may render the burden of duty light; and even in strong trouble rejoicing to be deemed worthy of the severer service of Thy will.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

153

The Discourse in the Temple

AND when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one question, which if ye tell me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven or from men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say,

From heaven; he will say unto us, Why then did ye not believe him? But if we shall say, From men; we fear the multitude; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We know not. He also said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things. But what think ye? A man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in the vineyard. And he answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented himself, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I *go,* sir: and went not. Which of the two did the will of his father? They say, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye saw it, did not even repent yourselves afterward, that ye might believe him.

Matthew 21:23-32

O Almighty God, without whom we can do nothing, we firmly resolve before Thee to follow more closely the rule of thy will; to amend our ways; to attend more diligently to the duties of our calling; to avoid all sin, and its its occasions. Do Thou, who givest us the will, give us also the power to accomplish it. Grant what Thou commandest, and command what Thou wilt; that so we may live righteously in this present world, and in the world to come may praise Thee eternally.—Amen.

Treasury of Devotion (1869)

154

The Great Commandment

THEN went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might ensnare him in *his* talk. And they send to him their disciples, with the Herodians, saying, Teacher, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, and carest not for any one: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Cæsar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why make ye trial of me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a denarius. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Cæsar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's. And when they heard it, they marvelled, and left him, and went away.

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, trying him: Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? And he said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like *unto it* is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets.

Matthew 22:15-22, 35-40

O Lord, grant to us so to love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, and all our soul, and our neighbor for Thy sake; that the grace of charity and brotherly love may dwell in us, and all envy, harshness, and ill-will may die in us; and fill our hearts with feelings of love, kindness, and compassion, so that, by constantly rejoicing in the happiness and good success of others, by sympathizing with them in their sorrows, and putting away all harsh judgments and envious thoughts, we may follow Thee, who art Thyself the true and perfect Love.—Amen.

Treasury of Devotion (1869)

155

The Parable of the Virgins

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For the foolish, when they took their lamps, took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there is a cry, Behold, the bridegroom! Come ye forth to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Peradventure there will not be enough for us and you: go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went away to buy, the

bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage feast: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:1-13

O Prince of Life! Awaken us from all indolence and dreaminess; teach us to walk before thee with burning lamps, with cheerful hearts, day by day expecting our summons home, that when it comes we may be found ready. Give us abundantly the oil of thy spirit and thy love, that we may be kept alert in constant watchfulness and unwearied prayer. Draw us heavenwards that we may every day mount thither in faith till we do so perfectly on that day when thou dost call us home.—Amen.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)

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The Parable of the Talents

FOR *it is* as *when* a man, going into another country, called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several ability; and he went on his journey. Straightway he that received the five talents went and traded with them, and made other five talents. In like manner he also that *received* the two gained other two. But he that received

the one went away and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. Now after a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and maketh a reckoning with them. And he that received the five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: lo, I have gained other five talents. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And he also that *received* the two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: lo, I have gained other two talents. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And he also that had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou didst not sow, and gathering where thou didst not scatter; and I was afraid, and went away and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, thou hast thine own. But his lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I did not scatter? thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the bankers, and at my coming I should have received back mine own with interest. Take ye away therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him that hath the ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken away.

Matthew 25:14-29

O God, who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to employ all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that, whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we may do it with our might. Cheerfully may we go in the road which Thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but, daily seeking one way in Thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey to Thee, the Fountain of joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along. Then, O Lord, receive us at the gate of life.—Amen.

From "Ten Services of Public Prayer," compiled by James Martineau

157

When Saw We Thee a Stranger?

BUT when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous man answer him, saying, Lord, when saw

we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, *even* these least, ye did it unto me.

Matthew 25:31-40

O Thou loving and tender Father in heaven, we confess before Thee, in deep sorrow, how hard and unsympathizing are our hearts; how often we have sinned against our neighbor by want of compassion and tenderness; how often we have felt no true pity for his trials and sorrows, and have neglected to comfort, help, and visit him. O Father, forgive this heavy sin, and lay it not to our charge. Give us grace ever to alleviate the crosses and difficulties of those around us, and never to add to them; teach us to be a consoler in sorrow, to take thought for the stranger, the widow, and the orphan; let our charity show itself not in words only but in deed and truth. Teach us to judge, as Thou dost, with forbearance, with much pity and indulgence; and help us to avoid all unloving judgment of others.—Amen.

Johann Arndt (1555-1621)

158

True Greatness

AND there come near unto him James and John, the sons of Zebedee, saying unto him, Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall ask of thee. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? And they said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and one on *thy* left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink the cup that I drink? or to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We are able. And Jesus said unto them, The cup that I drink ye shall drink; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: but to sit on my right hand or on *my* left hand is not mine to give; but *it is for them* for whom it hath been prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be moved with indignation concerning James and John. And Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they who are accounted to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you: but whosoever would become great among you, shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:35-45

Inspire us, we pray thee, to noble ambitions and godly lives; kindle in our hearts those things that are so beautiful that we will rest under their banners for their own sakes, for their own love, for their own glory. May we have more and more things, thoughts, imaginations, and affections that we are willing to live for and die for. May we have more and more of those unselfish experiences which teach us that if we would be anything we will be willing to be nothing. And so may we be led into the mystery and secret of thy life, the losing ourselves to find ourselves, the losing ourselves that we may be saved.—Amen.

Horatio Stebbins (1864-1902)

159

Faithful in Little

AND he sat down over against the treasury, and beheld how the multitude cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a poor widow, and she cast in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, This poor widow cast in more than all they that are casting into the treasury: for they all did cast in of their superfluity; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.

He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much: and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to

your trust the true *riches?* And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mark 12:41-44
Luke 16:10-13

O Lord God, we pray that we may be inspired to nobleness of life in the least things. May we dignify all our daily life. May we set such a sacredness upon every part of our life, as a means appointed for the glorious ends of our edification, that nothing shall be trivial, nothing unimportant, and nothing dull, in all the daily round.—Amen.

Henry Ward Beecher

160

The Great Commandment

AND one of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together, and knowing that he had answered them well, asked him, What commandment is the first of all? Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. The second is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Of a truth, Teacher, thou

hast well said that he is one; and there is none other but he: and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is much more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

Mark 12:28-34

O God, who hast taught us to keep all Thy heavenly commandments by loving Thee and our neighbor; grant us the spirit of peace and grace that we may be both devoted to Thee with our whole heart, and united to each other with a pure will.—Amen.

Leonine Sacramentary (440)

161

Instructions to the Seventy

NOW after these things the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself was about to come. And he said unto them, The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest. Go your ways; behold, I send you forth as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no wallet, no shoes; and salute no man on the way. And into whatsoever house ye shall enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house. And if a son of peace be there, your peace shall

rest upon him: but if not, it shall turn to you again. And in that same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: and heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye shall enter, and they receive you not, go out into the streets thereof and say, Even the dust from your city, that cleaveth to our feet, we wipe off against you: nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh.

Luke 10:1-11

Be with all men and women who spend themselves for the good of mankind and bear the burdens of others; who break bread to the hungry, clothe the naked, and take the friendless to their habitation. Establish Thou, O God, the works of their hands and grant them an abundant harvest of the good seed they are sowing.—Amen.

Jewish Liturgy

162

The Good Samaritan

AND behold, a certain lawyer stood up and made trial of him, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And he said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and

with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus made answer and said, A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance a certain priest was going down that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And in like manner a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion, and came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on *them* oil and wine; and he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow he took out two shillings, and gave them to the host, and said, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, I, when I come back again, will repay thee. Which of these three, thinkest thou, proved neighbor unto him that fell among the robbers? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. And Jesus said unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Luke 10:25-37

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; send Thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without

which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee.—Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

163

A Discourse to the Multitude

IN the mean time, when the many thousands of the multitude were gathered together, insomuch that they trod one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. But there is nothing covered up, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. Wherefore whatsoever ye have said in the darkness shall be heard in the light; and what ye have spoken in the ear in the inner chambers shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, who after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pence? and not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:1-7

We love Thee, O our God; and we desire to love Thee more and more. Grant to us that we may love Thee as much as we desire, and as much as we ought. O dearest

Friend, who hast so loved and saved us, the thought of whom is so sweet and always growing sweeter, come and dwell in our hearts; then thou wilt keep a watch over our lips, our steps, our deeds, and we shall not need to be anxious either for our souls or our bodies. Give us love, sweetest of all gifts, which knows no enemy. Give us in our hearts pure love, born of Thy love to us, that we may love others as Thou lovest us. O most loving Father from whom floweth all love, let our hearts, frozen in sin, cold to Thee and cold to others, be warmed by this divine fire. So help and bless us.—Amen.

St. Anselm (1033-1109)

164

The Parable of the Rich Man

AND he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:16-21

The earth is Thine, O Lord, and all that is contained therein; notwithstanding Thou hast given the possession thereof unto the children of men. We heartily pray Thee to send Thy holy spirit into the hearts of them that possess the grounds, pastures, and dwelling-places of the earth, that they, remembering themselves to be Thy tenants, may not rack and stretch out the rents of their houses and lands; nor yet take unreasonable fines and incomes, after the manner of covetous worldlings, but so let them out to others that the inhabitants thereof may both be able to pay the rents, and also honestly to live, to nourish their families, and to relieve the poor; give them grace also to consider that they are but strangers and pilgrims in this world, having here no dwelling-place, but seeking one to come; that they, remembering the short continuance of their life, may be content with that which is sufficient, and not join house to house, nor couple land to land, to the impoverishment of others, but to behave themselves in letting out their tenements, lands, and pastures, that after this life, they may be received into everlasting dwelling-places.—Amen.

Liturgies of King Edward VI

165

Faith and the Faithful

AND Jesus said to his disciples:

Do not be anxious about the life here—what you can get to eat; nor yet about your body—what you can get to wear. For life is more than food, and the body

than its clothes. Think of the ravens—they neither sow nor reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn; and yet God feeds them! And how much more precious are you than birds! But which of you, by being anxious, can prolong his life a moment? And, if you cannot do even the smallest thing, why be anxious about other things? Think of the lilies, and how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet, I tell you, even Solomon in all his splendor was not robed like one of these. If, even in the field, God so clothes the grass which is living to-day and to-morrow will be thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O men of little faith! And you —do not be always seeking what you can get to eat or what you can get to drink; and do not waver. These are the things for which all the nations of the world are seeking, and your Father knows that you need them. No, seek his Kingdom, and these things shall be added for you. So do not be afraid, my little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom. Sell what belongs to you, and give in charity. Make yourselves purses that will not wear out—an inexhaustible treasure in Heaven, where no thief comes near, or moth works ruin. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Make yourselves ready, with your lamps alight; and be like men who are waiting for their Master's return from his wedding, so that, when he comes and knocks, they may open the door for him at once. Happy are those servants whom, on his return, the Master will find watching.*

Luke 12:22-37

* From the *Twentieth Century New Testament,* Copyright, 1904, by Fleming H. Revell Co.

O Thou most holy and ever-loving God, we thank Thee once more for the quiet rest of the night that has gone by, for the new promise that has come with this fresh morning, and for the hope of this day. While we have slept, the world in which we live has swept on in its awful space, great fires have burned under us, great waters have been all about us, and great storms above us; but Thou hast held them back by Thy strong hand, and we have rested under the shadow of Thy love. The bird sat on the spray out in the darkness, the flower nestled in the grass, we lay down in our home, and all slept in the arms of God. The bird will trust Thee this day to give its morsel of meat, and the flower will trust Thee for its fresh raiment; so may we trust Thee this day for all the needs of the body, the soul, and the spirit. Give us this day our daily bread.—Amen.

Robert Collyer (1823-1912)

166

A Lesson in Humility

AND he spake a parable unto those that were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief seats; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a marriage feast, sit not down in the chief seat; lest haply a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him, and he that bade thee and him shall come and say to thee, Give this man place; and then thou shalt begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest place; that when he

that hath bidden thee cometh, he may say to thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have glory in the presence of all that sit at meat with thee. For every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 14:7-11

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and consider our desires. Give unto us true humility, a meek and quiet spirit, a loving and a friendly, a holy and a useful manner of life; bearing the burdens of our neighbors, denying ourselves, and studying to benefit others, and to please Thee in all things. Grant us to be righteous in performing promises, loving to our relatives, careful of our charges; to be gentle and easy to be entreated, slow to anger, and readily prepared for every good work.—Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

167

The Slighted Invitation

AND he said to him also that had bidden him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, nor thy kinsmen, nor rich neighbors; lest haply they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, bid the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; because they have not *wherewith* to recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed in the resurrection of the just.

And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard

these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. But he said unto him, A certain man made a great supper; and he bade many: and he sent forth his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for *all* things are now ready. And they all with one *consent* began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a field, and I must needs go out and see it; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. And the servant came, and told his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor and maimed and blind and lame. And the servant said, Lord, what thou didst command is done, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and constrain *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, that none of those men that were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Luke 14:12-24

Almighty God, thy great gifts go forth from thee upon the thankful and upon the unthankful. These blessed days have their light for those who know not their glory, as well as for those who welcome their coming. Thou dost send all thy great blessings upon the whole camp of the household of man.

Yet we have to remember that there are gifts of thine that thou givest not thus. Thou hast strange gifts that

thou givest to the lowly and the humble, gifts that may never be thrown away, precious, heavenly blessings. But there are conditions to the bestowment. Thou wouldst not give all thy jewels to the unworthy, thou wouldst not bestow all thy blessings upon the unthankful. Pearls may not be cast before swine, and there are spiritual blessings which cannot be given to a fool. Give us grace to know what to request, before thou givest. Our ears have heard of gracious gifts bestowed without money and without price. Yet we believe that thou hast gifts that thou wilt not give except to those who rightly ask for them. Teach us what thou askest of us, teach us what to ask of thee.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

168

Saving the Lost

NOW all the publicans and sinners were drawing near unto him to hear him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

And he spake unto them this parable, saying, What man of you, having a hundred sheep, and having lost one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and his neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which

was lost. I say unto you, that even so there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, *more* than over ninety and nine righteous persons, who need no repentance.

Or what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a lamp, and sweep the house, and seek diligently until she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth together her friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost. Even so, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 15:1-10

Almighty and most merciful God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being; Lord of all life; Source of all light, guiding and governing all things of Thy loving-kindness and power! Hear our thanksgivings unto Thee for all the joy that Thou puttest into mortal life; but chiefly for the joy that comes of sin forgiven, weakness strengthened, victory promised, life eternal looked for. To every one of us grant that, being fully conscious of having erred and strayed from Thy ways, we may be equally conscious of our need to go back again to the Good Shepherd. Let there be no doubt with any one of us that Thou dost forgive, even to the uttermost, all those who draw nigh in penitence to Thee; that so, those of us who are sinful, and sad because sinful, and sorrowful in sinning, may have this day the joy of the Lord. —Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

169

The Prodigal Son

AND he said, A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of *thy* substance that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country; and there he wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that country; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. But when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But while he was yet afar off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring the fatted calf, *and* kill

it, and let us eat, and make merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

Luke 15:11-24

By that forgiving tenderness, O Lord, wherewith Thou didst ever wait for us; by that tender love wherewith, whenever we wandered, Thou watchest over us; by Thine infinite love, wherewith Thou willest that we should love Thee eternally; give us love like Thine, that we may forgive, compassionate, love like Thee.—Amen.

E. B. Pusey (1800-1882)

170

The Publican's Prayer

AND he spake also this parable unto certain who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and set all others at nought: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God, be thou merciful to me a sinner. I say unto you, This man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled; but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:9-14

Forgive any who thank thee that they are not what other men are. Forgive the rich, if by a foolish understanding of their position they despise the poor. Forgive any of us whose lot is cast in humble places with humble work to do and little reward, if in any way we repine against God. Teach us that there is no work into which nobleness may not come, no calling that has not room in it for grace, no man too humble to be God's child, no child too low to be God's friend.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

171

The Parable of the Pounds

A NOBLEMAN once went to a distant country to receive his appointment to a Kingdom and then return. He called ten of his servants and gave them ten pounds each, and told them to trade with them during his absence. On his return, after having been appointed King, he directed that the servants to whom he had given his money should be summoned, so that he might learn what amount of trade they had done. The first came up, and said, "Sir, your ten pounds have made a hundred." "Well done, good servant!" exclaimed the master. "As you have proved trustworthy in a very small matter, I appoint you governor over ten towns." When the second came, he said, "Your ten pounds, Sir, have produced fifty." So the master said to him "And you I appoint over five towns." Another servant also came and said "Sir, here are your ten pounds; I have kept

them put away in a handkerchief. For I was afraid of you, because you are a stern man. You take what you have not planted, and reap what you have not sown." The master answered "Out of your own mouth I judge you, you worthless servant. You knew that I am a stern man, that I take what I have not planted, and reap what I have not sown? Then why did not you put my money into a bank? And I, on my return, could have claimed it with interest. Take away from him the ten pounds," he said to those standing by, "and give them to the one who has the hundred."

"But, Sir," they interposed, "he has a hundred pounds already!"

"I tell you," he answered, "that, to him who has, more will be given, but, from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away." *

Luke 19:12-26

O Thou who needest not to be entreated, we do not ask of Thee new talents, for Thou hast given what Thou sawest fit; nor do we entreat Thee to do for us what thou hast given us power to do; but, conscious of thy presence, feeling the great gifts which Thou hast bestowed upon us, and the perpetual income of Thy spirit, we would use every faculty which Thou hast given for its appropriate work, and so pass from childhood to manhood, from glory to glory, till Thou, finishing Thy work with us here, shall take us to Thyself, to pass from the greater glory to the greatest, by a continual transfigura-

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tion of ourselves to Thine image and Thy likeness. So may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.—Amen.

Theodore Parker

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The Living Water

SO he cometh to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph: and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. For his disciples were gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman therefore saith unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, who am a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: whence then hast thou that living water? Jesus answered and said unto her, Every one that drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto eternal life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this

mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:5-11, 13, 14, 19-21, 23, 24

Infinite Ruler of creation, whose Spirit dwells in every world! we look not into the solemn heavens for Thee, though Thou art there: we search not in the ocean for Thy presence, though it murmurs with Thy voice: we wait not for the wings of the wind to bring Thee nigh, though they are Thy messengers: for Thou art in our hearts, O God, and makest Thine abode in the deep places of our thought and love; and into each gentle affection, each contrite sorrow, each higher aspiration we would retire to meet and worship Thee.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

173

The Example of Humility

NOW before the feast of the passover, Jesus knowing that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them unto the end. *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all things into his

hands, and that he came forth from God, and goeth unto God, riseth from supper, and layeth aside his garments; and he took a towel, and girded himself. Then he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. So he cometh to Simon Peter. He saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt understand hereafter.

So when he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and sat down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me, Teacher, and, Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, A servant is not greater than his lord; neither one that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, blessed are ye if ye do them.

John 13:1, 3-7, 12-17

O Lord, our Guide even unto death, grant us, we pray Thee, grace to follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest. In little daily duties to which Thou callest us, bow down our wills to simple obedience, patience under pain or provocation, strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility, kindness: in great acts of duty or perfection if Thou shouldest call us to them, uplift us to self-sacrifice, heroic courage, laying down of life for Thy Truth's sake or for a brother.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

174

The Commandment of Love

THIS is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known unto you. Ye did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should abide: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye may love one another.

John 15:12-17

O God of love, O Giver of concord, Who hast given one counsel for our profit, with a new commandment, that we should love one another even as Thou didst love us, the unworthy and the wandering; we pray Thee, Lord, give to us Thy servants, in all time of our life on earth, a mind forgetful of past ill-will, a pure conscience and sincere thoughts, and a heart to love our brethren.—Amen.

St. Gregory Theologus

VII

Letters And Teachings Of The Apostles

175

Paul's Sermon on Mar's Hill

AND Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, and said,

Ye men of Athens, in all things I perceive that ye are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, To AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temple made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain even of your own poets have said,

For we are also his offspring.

Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man. The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth

men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained.

Acts 17:22-31

The breath of every living being shall bless Thy name, O Lord our God, and the spirit of all flesh shall continually glorify and exalt Thy memorial, O our King; from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God; and beside Thee we have no King who redeemeth and saveth, setteth free and delivereth, who supporteth and hath mercy in all times of trouble and distress; yea, we have no King but Thee. He is God of the first and of the last, the God of all creatures, the Lord of all generations, who is extolled with many praises, and guideth His world with lovingkindness and His creatures with tender mercies.—Amen.

Jewish Prayer Book

176

The Living Sacrifice

I ENTREAT you, then, Brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, for this is your rational worship. Do not conform to the fashion of this world; but be transformed by the complete change that has come over your minds, so that you may discern what God's will is—all that is good, acceptable, and perfect.

In fulfilment of the charge with which I have been entrusted, I bid every one of you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think till he learns to think soberly—in accordance with the measure of faith that God has allotted to each.

Since our gifts differ in accordance with the particular charge entrusted to us, if our gift is to preach, let our preaching correspond to our faith; if it is to minister to others, let us devote ourselves to our ministry; the teacher to his teaching, the speaker to his exhortation. Let the man who gives in charity do so with a generous heart; let him who is in authority exercise due diligence; let him who shows kindness do so in a cheerful spirit. Let your love be sincere. Hate the wrong; cling to the right. In brotherly love, be affectionate to one another; in showing respect, set an example of deference to one another; never flagging in zeal; fervent in spirit; serving the Master.

Bless your persecutors—bless and never curse. Rejoice with those who are rejoicing, and weep with those who are weeping. Let the same spirit of sympathy animate you all, not a spirit of pride; be glad to associate with the lowly. Do not think too highly of yourselves. Never return injury for injury. Aim at doing what all men will recognize as honorable. If it is possible, as far as rests with you, live peaceably with every one. Never avenge yourselves, dear friends, but make way for the Wrath of God; for Scripture declares—

"It is for me to avenge, I will requite," says the Lord. Rather—

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him to drink. By doing this you will heap coals of fire upon his head."
Never be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.*

Romans 12:1-3, 14-21

O thou who hast directed us to overcome evil with good, and hast expressly commanded our prayers for them that persecute us, and despitefully use us, all that have hated us with or without a cause; some of them perhaps even for our good will, for speaking distasteful truth, or doing necessary justice; but, whatever the occasion, or the offence may have been, which, if given on our part, we entreat thee and them to forgive; have the same mercy, O Lord, on all our enemies, as on ourselves; and bring them, we beseech thee, to thy heavenly kingdom, as we hope and pray thou wilt at length bring us.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace.—Amen.

Bishop Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

177

The Armor of Light

RENDER to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due;* custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

* From the *Twentieth Century New Testament,* Copyright, 1904, by Fleming H. Revell Co.

Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not covet, and if there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: love therefore is the fulfilment of the law.

And this, knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we *first* believed. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:7-12

Kindle in our hearts, O Divine Master and Lover of men, the pure light of Thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds to the understanding of Thy Gospel. Plant in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that, trampling upon all selfish and sinful desires, we may attain to spiritual life, both thinking and doing all things according to Thy Word. For Thou art the illumination of our souls, and to Thee we ascribe the glory forever.—Amen.

Daybreak Office of the Eastern Church

178

For Another's Sake

ONE man hath faith to eat all things: but he that is weak eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth set at nought him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest the servant of another? to his own lord he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be made to stand; for the Lord hath power to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let each man be fully assured in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord: and he that eateth, eateth unto the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, unto the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge ye this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock in his brother's way, or an occasion of falling.

So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another. Overthrow not for meat's sake the work of God. All things indeed are clean; howbeit it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *to do anything* whereby thy brother stumbleth.

The faith which thou hast, have thou to thyself before God. Happy is he that judgeth not himself in that which he approveth.

Romans 14:2-8, 13, 19-22

O Thou searcher of hearts, by whom alone actions and words and thoughts are justly weighed, keep far from us all disposition to judge and censure our brethren. Standing in constant need of Thy forgiveness, may we not deprive ourselves of the appeal to Thy mercy by uncharitably judging our fellow-men; but, in our conduct to each other, let mercy still rejoice against judgment, as we pray that it may do when we stand before Thy awful tribunal.—Amen.

Martineau's Service Book

179

The Bodily Temple

KNOW ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body.

Know ye not that they that run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? Even so run; that ye may attain. And every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. Now they *do it* to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so fight I, as not

beating the air: but I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give no occasion of stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God: even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of the many, that they may be saved.

I Corinthians 6:19, 20; 9:24-27; 10:12, 31-33

O God, grant unto us that we be not unwise, but understanding Thy will: not slothful, but diligent in Thy work: that we run not as uncertainty, nor fight thy battles as those that beat the air. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do, may we do it with our might: that when Thou shalt call Thy laborers to give them their reward, we may so have run that we may obtain; so have fought the good fight, as to receive the crown of eternal life.—Amen.

Henry Alford (1810-1891)

180

The Greatest Thing in the World

IF I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. And if I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all

faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, *and* is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall be done away; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:1-13

O God of love, and giver of concord, who hast given us counsel for our profit, with a blessed commandment to love one another, even as Thou lovest us, the unworthy and the wandering, and givest us the power of returning to life and salvation; we pray Thee, Lord, give Thy servants, in all time of our life on earth (but especially now), a mind forgetful of past ill will, a pure conscience,

and sincere thoughts, and a heart to love our brethren. —Amen.

Rowland Williams (1817-1870)

181

The Final Victory

IF after the manner of men I fought with beasts at Ephesus, what doth it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die. Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals. Awake to soberness righteously, and sin not; for some have no knowledge of God: I speak *this* to move you to shame.

But some one will say, How are the dead raised? and with what manner of body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not the body that shall be, but a bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other kind; but God giveth it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then

shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:32-38, 42-44, 54-58

O Lord our God, keep us from all darkness except such as our own foolishness brings over us. Let us remember that there is no darkness with Thee. Let us have but one thing to be afraid of—the death of the spirit. Let there be but one thing that we shrink from —unlovingness towards Thee and our brother. And when the storm is loud, and the night is dark, and the soul is sad, and the heart oppressed; then, as weary travelers, may we look to Thee; and beholding the light of Thy love, may it bear us on, until we learn to sing Thy song in the night. And when the last chill stream of death shall be crossed, grant that ours may be the Delectable Mountains, the company of faithful souls, the eternal years, the everlasting life. Of Thy great mercy hear our supplications.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

182

The Cheerful Giver

BUT this *I say*, He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. *Let* each man *do* according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work: as it is written,

He hath scattered abroad, he hath given to the poor;
His righteousness abideth for ever.

And he that supplieth seed to the sower and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness: ye being enriched in everything unto all liberality, which worketh through us thanksgiving to God.

II Corinthians 9:6-11

Almighty God, giver of the seed and of the soil; of the word and of the understanding; of the heavenly life and the earthly vessel; teach us the good husbandry of the heart, so that thy precious word may bring forth fruit; and that we, having the conditions of spiritual readiness to receive the water of life, may thereby be refreshed for our daily life and filled at last for the life eternal.—Amen.

George Dawson (1821-1876)

183

Sowing Unto the Spirit

SINCE our Life is due to the Spirit, let us rule our conduct also by the Spirit. Do not let us grow vain, and provoke or envy one another. Brothers, even if a man should be caught committing a sin, you who are spiritually minded should, in a gentle spirit, help him to recover himself, taking care lest any one of you also should be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so carry out the Law of the Christ. If a man imagines himself to be somebody, when he is really nobody, he deceives himself. Let every one test his own work, and then his cause for satisfaction will be in himself and not in a comparison of himself with his neighbor; for every one must bear his own load. He, however, who is being instructed in the Message ought always to share his blessings with the man who instructs him.

Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. What a man sows that he will reap. For he who sows the field of his earthly nature will from that earthly nature reap corruption; while he who sows the field of the spirit will from that spirit reap Immortal Life. Let us never tire of doing right, for at the proper season we shall reap our harvest, if we do not grow weary. Therefore, I say, as the opportunity occurs, let us treat every one with kindness, and especially members of the Household of the Faith.*

Galatians 5:25; 6:1-10

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Accomplish Thy perfect work in our souls, O Father; let us become day by day purer, freer, more heavenly, more happy, and preserve us unto eternal life. Bless, animate, and sustain us, and raise us mightily above all that would distract us, to Thyself and the consciousness of Thy fellowship which gives joy to all who dwell therein. As yet we are bound with many chains; we tarry among things seen and temporal, and feel their oppression; we are exposed to the storms of the outer world, and are wrestling with its ills. But we are not dismayed, for we are more than earth and dust, we are akin to Thee, O Spirit of the Lord, and can experience Thy heavenly influence. Unite us ever more closely to the company of faithful hearts whom Thou art sanctifying and preparing for heaven; fill us with their faith and love and hope.—Amen.

D. R. Reinhard (1753-1812)

184

Paul's Message to the Ephesians

WHEREFORE, putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need. Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth,

but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption. Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them; for ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord; and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them; for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of. But all things when they are reproved are made manifest by the light: for everything that is made manifest is light.

Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 4:25-30; 5:6-13, 15-19

May the best of our thoughts, and the best of our lives, and the best of our time, be surrendered freely to Thee. Let us trust in Thee in everything; let us see Thy faithfulness in every event in our chequered and changing histories.

Be Thou with us throughout this day; sanctify all its

duties; go with us where we go, dwell with us where we dwell; may we pitch our tent ever near Thyself, and then we shall be safe.—Amen.

John R. MacDuff

185

To the Ephesians—Continued

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.

Servants, be obedient unto them that according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, not in the way of eye-service, as men-pleasers; but with good will doing service, as unto the Lord, and not unto men: knowing that whatsoever good thing each one doeth, the same shall he receive again from the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, and forbear threatening: knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the

Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:1-5, 7-11, 18

Help us to find our chief delight in work, wherein we join our hand, our brain, our heart to Thy power, Thy laws, Thy love. May we choose that task which most taxes our highest powers, and best serves the world's deepest need. May we do it with such skill, such thoroughness, such joy, that it shall have about it the strength of the mountains, the freedom of the streams, the gladness of the sunshine, the fertility of the fields, the beauty of the stars and flowers. Thus may we become not a mere creature but a creator; not one of Thy works, but one of Thy co-workers.

Help us to do good, full-measured work, when poor, scant work brings equal pay. May we give a full equivalent for all we take; add to the world's wealth as much as we consume; and be sound members of the economic order. May we be fair to our employer, whether he treats us well or ill; considerate to our employees, whether they love or hate us; loyal to our fellow-workmen whether they stand by us or not; just to those remote consumers of our product who will never know to whose honesty and honor they owe the sound quality of the goods we make and the services we render them.—Amen.*

William De Witt Hyde

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Paul's Message to the Philippians

SO then, my beloved, even as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and questionings; that ye may become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life; that I may have whereof to glory, that I did not run in vain neither labor in vain. Yea, and if I am offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all: and in the same manner do ye also joy, and rejoice with me.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 2:12-18; 4:8, 9

O God, whose mercy reacheth unto the heavens, and Thy righteousness unto the clouds, teach us to abhor

everything which is evil, and to set ourselves in every good way; that, our trust being under the shadow of Thy wings, we may rejoice in Thy loving-kindness all the days of our life; and at last may be satisfied with the plenteousness of Thy house, and in the light of Thy countenance may see everlasting light.—Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

187

The Things Which Are Above

SET your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. But now do ye also put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, railing, shameful speaking out of your mouth: lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him: and above all these things *put on* love, which is the bond of perfectness.

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing in the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged. Servants, obey in all things them that are your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord: whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that from the Lord ye shall receive the recompense of the inheritance. For he that doeth wrong shall re-

ceive again for the wrong that he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Colossians 3:2, 8-10, 14, 20-25

O thou to whom time and eternity are one! where our treasure is, there let our heart be also. Set our affections on things above, where our real life is hid with thee. Filled with the everlasting light, may we look on each other, and on our work below, and on the strife and sorrows of humanity, with a love and hope that are not of this world. . . .

Enlarge our souls with a divine charity, that, reviled, we may not revile again; that we may hope all things, believe all things, endure all things; and become messengers of thy healing mercy to the grievances and infirmities of men. In all things attune our hearts to the holiness and harmony of thy kingdom. And hasten the time when that kingdom shall come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.—Amen.

James Martineau (1805-1900)

188

True Riches

BUT godliness with contentment is great gain: for we brought nothing into the world, for neither can we carry anything out; but having food and covering we shall be therewith content. But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction

and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of the faith, lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto thou wast called, and didst confess the good confession in the sight of many witnesses.

Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not highminded, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is *life* indeed.

I Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

O Lord, give us more charity, more self-denial, more likeness to Thee. Teach us to sacrifice our comforts to others, and our likings for the sake of doing good. Make us kindly in thought, gentle in word, generous in deed. Teach us that it is better to give than to receive; better to forget ourselves than to put ourselves forward; better to minister than to be ministered unto. And unto Thee, the God of Love, be glory and praise for ever.—Amen.

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

189

Paul's Charge to Timothy

I SOLEMNLY charge you, in the sight of God and of Christ Jesus—I charge you by his Appearing and by his Kingdom:—Proclaim the Message, be ready in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, encourage, never failing to instruct with forbearance. For a time will come when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will follow their own wishes, and, in their itching for novelty, procure themselves a crowd of teachers. They will turn a deaf ear to the Truth, and give their attention to legends instead. But you, Timothy, must always be temperate. Face hardships; do the work of a Missionary; discharge all the duties of your Office.

As for me, my life blood is already being poured out; the time of my departure is close at hand. I have run the great Race; I have finished the Course; I have kept the Faith. And now the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give me on "That Day"—and not only to me, but to all who have loved his Appearing.

The Lord will rescue me from all evil, and bring me safe into his Heavenly Kingdom. All glory to him for ever and ever!—Amen.*

II Timothy 4:1-7, 18

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls

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of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; we give Thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those Thy servants who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors. And we beseech Thee that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in Thy eternal and everlasting glory.—Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

190

Paul's Message to Titus

TO the pure all things are pure: but to them that are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess that they know God; but by their works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine: that aged men be temperate, grave, sober-minded, sound in faith, in love, in patience: that aged women likewise be reverent in demeanor, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good; that they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, *to be* sober-minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed: the younger men likewise exhort to be sober-minded: in all things show-

ing thyself an example of good works; in thy doctrine *showing* uncorruptness, gravity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of us. *Exhort* servants to be in subjection to their own masters, *and* to be well-pleasing *to them* in all things; not gainsaying; not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Titus 1:15, 16; 2:1-10

O Lord God, in whose hand are the wills and affections of men, kindle in our mind holy desires, and repress sinful and corrupt imaginations; enable us to love Thy commandments, and to desire Thy promises; let us, by Thy protection and influence, so pass through things temporal, as finally not to lose the things eternal; and, among the hopes and fears, the pleasures and sorrows, the dangers and deliverances, and all the changes of this life, let our heart be surely fixed, by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, on the everlasting fruition of Thy presence, where true joys are to be found.—Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

191

From the Message to the Hebrews

LET love of the brethren continue. Forget not to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in

bonds, as bound with them; them that are ill-treated, as being yourselves also in the body.

Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee. So that with good courage we say,

The Lord is my helper; I will not fear:
What shall man do unto me?

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit *to them:* for they watch in behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this *were* unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:1-3, 5, 6, 17

O Lord, who lovest the stranger, defend and nourish, we entreat Thee, all sojourners in strange lands and poor helpless persons, that they may glorify Thee out of grateful hearts: and to such men as are tyrannical and oppressive give searchings of spirit and amendment of ways, that Thou mayest show mercy on them also.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

192

Temptation

COUNT it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have *its* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.

But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord; a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* promised to them that love him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

Ye know *this*, my beloved brethren. But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

James 1:2-8, 12, 17, 19, 26, 27

O Lord, succor, we beseech Thee, us who are tempted. May nothing induce us to distrust Thy care over us, nor to use Thy gifts to the denial of Thee, their Giver. May we never presume upon Thy protection when we are forsaking Thy paths, and tempting Thee. May we never, for the sake of any supposed gain or advancement, quench the testimony of Thy Spirit, or prove disloyal to Thy service. Do Thou so support us in all temptations

that, when we have been tried, we may receive the crown of life, which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee.—Amen.

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

193

Respect of Persons

MY brethren, hold not the faith of *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come into your synagogue a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, and there come in also a poor man in vile clothing; and ye have regard to him that weareth the fine clothing, and say, Sit thou here in a good place; and ye say to the poor man, Stand thou there, or sit under my footstool; do ye not make distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world *to be* rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him? But ye have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you, and themselves drag you before the judgment-seats? Do not they blaspheme the honorable name by which ye are called? Howbeit if ye fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: but if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is become guilty of all.

So speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged

by a law of liberty. For judgment *is* without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy: mercy glorieth against judgment.

James 2:1-10, 12, 13

O Lord, shew forth Thy loving-kindness, we entreat Thee, to all persons who in this world feel themselves neglected, or little loved, or forgotten. Be Thou their beloved Companion, and let communion with Thee be to them more dear than tenderest earthly intercourse. Teach them to discern Thee in all with whom they come in contact, and to love and serve Thee in them. On earth grant them comfort by the repentance of any who have wronged them, and in heaven comfort in the communion of all saints with each other and with Thee.—Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)

194

The Wisdom from Above

I DO not want many of you, my Brothers, to become teachers, knowing, as you do, that we who teach shall be judged by a more severe standard than others. We often make mistakes, every one of us. Any one who does not make mistakes when speaking is indeed a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body as well. When we put bits into horses' mouths, to make them obey us, we control the rest of their bodies also. Again, think of ships. Large as they are, and even when driven by fierce winds, they are controlled by a very small rudder

and steered in whatever direction the man at the helm may determine. So is it with the tongue. Small as it is, it is a great boaster. Think how tiny a spark may set the largest forest ablaze! And the tongue is like a spark. Among the members of our body it proves itself a very world of mischief; it contaminates the whole body; it sets the wheels of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by the flames of the Pit. For while all sorts of beasts and birds, and of reptiles and creatures in the sea, are tameable, and actually have been tamed by man, no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless plague! It is charged with deadly poison! With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who are made in God's likeness. From the very same mouth come blessings and curses! My Brothers, it is not right that this should be so. Does a spring give both good and bad water from the same source? Can a fig tree, my Brothers, bear olives? or a vine bear figs? No, nor can a brackish well give good water.

Who among you claims to be wise and intelligent? Let him show that his actions are the outcome of a good life lived in the humility of true wisdom. But, while you harbor envy and bitterness and a spirit of rivalry in your hearts, do not boast or lie to the detriment of the Truth. That is not the wisdom which comes from above; no, it is earthly, animal, devilish. For, where envy and rivalry exist, there you will also find disorder and all kinds of base actions. But the wisdom from above is, before everything else, pure; then peace-loving, gentle, open to conviction, rich in compassion and good deeds, and free from partiality and insincerity. And

righteousness, its fruit, is sown in peace by those who work for peace.*

James 3:1-18

O God, perfect us in love, that we may conquer all selfishness and hatred of others; fill our hearts with Thy joy, and shed abroad in them Thy peace which passeth understanding; that so those murmurings and disputings to which we are too prone may be overcome. Make us long-suffering and gentle, and thus subdue our hastiness and angry tempers, and grant that we may bring forth the blessed fruits of the Spirit, to Thy praise and glory. —Amen.

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

195

From the Letter of St. Peter

DEAR friends, I urge you, as pilgrims and strangers upon earth, to refrain from indulging the cravings of your earthly nature, for they make war upon the soul. Let your daily life among the Gentiles be so upright, that, whenever they malign you as evil-doers, they may learn, as they watch, from the uprightness of your conduct, to praise God at the time when he shall visit them.

Submit to all human institutions for the Lord's sake, alike to the emperor as the supreme authority, and to governors as the men sent by him to punish evil-doers and to commend those who do right. For God's will is

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this—that you should silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing what is right. Act as free men, yet not using your freedom as those do who make it a cloak for wickedness, but as Servants of God. Show honour to every one. Love the Brotherhood, revere God, honour the emperor.

Those of you who are domestic servants should always be submissive and respectful to their masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are arbitrary. For this wins God's approval when, because conscious of God's presence, a man who is suffering unjustly bears his troubles patiently. What credit can you claim when, after doing wrong, you take your punishment for it patiently? But, on the other hand, if, after doing right, you take your sufferings patiently, that does win the approval of God.*

I Peter 2:11-20

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to renew Thy people inwardly and outwardly, that as thou wouldest not have them to be hindered by bodily pleasures, Thou mayest make them vigorous with spiritual purpose; and refresh them in such sort by things transitory, that Thou mayest grant them rather to cleave to things eternal.—Amen.

Leonine (A. D. 440)

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196

Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

FINALLY, *be* ye all likeminded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, humbleminded: not rendering evil for evil, or reviling for reviling; but contrariwise blessing; for hereunto were ye called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For,

He that would love life,
And see good days,
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,
And his lips that they speak no guile:
And let him turn away from evil, and do good;
Let him seek peace, and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
And his ears unto their supplication:
But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil.

And who is he that will harm you, if ye be zealous of that which is good? But even if ye should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed *are ye:* and fear not their fear, neither be troubled. For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that ye suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing.

I Peter 3:8-14, 17

Keep us especially, O Heavenly Father, from causeless and excessive anger, and from all hatred and malice. Help us to govern our temper, and to put down all unkind feelings. Let us never say that which we should not dare to do. Let none of our thoughts and wishes

towards others be sinful. May ours be the charity that thinketh no evil, but hopeth all things good. May we never return railing for railing and threatening for threatening. May we honor all men, and particularly the wise and good. Let us not forbid or reproach or condemn such as follow not our way of faith and worship. May the law of love rule in our hearts, sway our tongues, be seen in our looks, and direct our whole lives. —Amen.

Robert Aspland (1840)

197

The Day of the Lord

BUT forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in *all* holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new

heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight.

II Peter 3:8-14

Thou, whose name is love, who never turnest away from the cry of thy needy children, give ear to our prayer this morning. Make this a day of blessing to us, and make us a blessing to others. Keep all evil away from us. Preserve us from outward transgression and from secret sin. Help us to control our tempers. May we check the first risings of anger or sullenness. If we meet with unkindness or ill-treatment, give us that charity which suffereth long and beareth all things. Make us kind and gentle toward all, loving even those who love us not. Let us live this day as if it were to be our last. . . . May we take no step that is not ordered by Thee, and go nowhere except Thou, Lord, go with us.—Amen.

Ashton Oxenden (1808-1892)

198

God Is Love

He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother, is in the darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in the darkness, and walketh in the darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because the darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us: hereby we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

I John 2:9-11; 4:7, 8, 12, 13, 20, 21

O God, since Thou art love, and he that loveth not Thee and his brethren knoweth Thee not and abideth in death, deliver us from injustice, envy, hatred, and malice; give us grace to pardon all who have offended us, and to bear with one another, even as Thou, Lord, dost bear with us, in Thy patience and great loving-kindness.—Amen.

Eugene Bersier (1831-1899)

199

Brotherly Love

MARVEL not, brethren, if the world hateth you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:

and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? *My* little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth. Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him: because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, we have boldness toward God; and whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.

I John 3:13-22

Grant unto us, O Lord God, that we may love one another unfeignedly; for where love is, there art Thou; and he that loveth his brother is born of Thee, and dwelleth in Thee, and Thou in him. And where brethren do glorify Thee with one accord, there dost Thou pour out thy blessing upon them. Love us therefore, O Lord, and shed thy love into our hearts, that we may love Thee, and our brethren in Thee, and for Thee, as all children to Thee.—Amen.

Book of Christian Prayers (1578)

200

The New Jerusalem

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God: and he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more: the first things are passed away. And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have the right *to come* to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.

Revelations 21:1-4; 22:5, 14

O bright and glorious day, which knoweth no evening, whose sun shall no more go down; in which we shall hear the voice of praise, the voice of joy and thanksgiving, thy voice saying unto us: Enter into the joy of thy Lord; enter into joy everlasting, into the house of the Lord thy God, wherein are things great and unsearchable, and wonderful things without number; enter into

joy wherein is no sorrow, but untroubled gladness; wherein is all manner of good, and no manner of thing that is evil; where all thy heart's desire shall be satisfied, and all thou fearest and hatest shall be far from thee; where life shall be calm, and glad, and thrilling; wherein the hateful enemy shall not enter, nor any breath of temptation shall come near thee.

O joy transcending all joys! when shall we enter into thee and behold our Lord, whose dwelling is in thee!

Blessed are they who have passed over the great and wide sea to the eternal shore, and are now blessed in their desired rest. Blessed are they who have escaped from all evils, and are secure of their unfading glory in thee, thou kingdom of blessedness!

Hear us, O Lord, from this great and wide ocean and bring us to the everlasting haven, the kingdom of endless ages, whereon rests the untroubled light and peace of God, which passeth all understanding, where the souls of the saints are at rest, and everlasting joy is upon their heads, and sorrow and sighing have fled away.—Amen.

St. Augustine (354-430)

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